

Guilty plea

Nikolas Cruz pleads guilty in 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Fla. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Petito murder case

Potential human remains found near items belonging to Brian Laundrie. **NEWS, PAGE 2**

Sox facing elimination

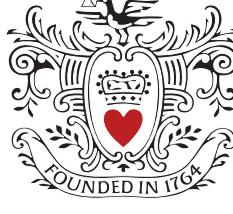
Red Sox head back to Houston with 3-2 series deficit after 9-1 loss. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Mild



Partly sunny; chance for shower at night; high 74. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

Hartford Courant



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

FEDERAL AGENTS ARREST STATE REPRESENTATIVE



State Rep. Michael DiMassa, left, leaves U.S. District Court in New Haven with his attorney John Gulash after DiMassa's appearance Wednesday. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

Rep. DiMassa accused of stealing relief aid funds

Authorities say he took \$600K in pandemic scam

By Edmund H. Mahony and Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

State Rep. Michael DiMassa was accused Wednesday of stealing more than \$600,000 in federal COVID-19 relief money by billing the city of West Haven, where he also worked as an aide to the City Council, for pandemic related consulting services that federal officials said he never performed.

Federal prosecutors and FBI agents said Wednesday that a portion of the alleged thefts appear to correspond with DiMassa's purchase of tens of thousands of dollars in gambling chips at the Mohegan Sun casino.

DiMassa, 30, a West Haven Democrat who was charged with fraud, was arrested early Wednesday by FBI agents and was presented in U.S. District Court in New Haven shortly before noon. He was released on a \$250,000 bond.

DiMassa's name surfaced last week amid reports that the FBI, as well as the administration of West Haven Mayor Nancy Rossi, also a Democrat, were looking into what the mayor called a number of large and apparently irregular expenditures from about \$1.2 million in federal funds.

"Over the last two weeks, I have personally reviewed many of West Haven's federal CARES Act expenditures," Rossi said. "I have come across several large expenditures that have caused me great concern. Some

Turn to DiMassa, Page 3

"Elected officials are rightly held to a high standard of conduct and trust. Even the slightest hint of wrong-doing bruises that trust."

— House Speaker Matt Ritter of Hartford and House majority leader Jason Rojas of East Hartford

Republicans demand audits of COVID-19 spending in 169 towns

By Christopher Keating
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The arrest Wednesday of a state legislator has generated calls for broader scrutiny over the state's distribution of COVID-19 funds that have been spread across the state and will continue into next year.

Republican legislators are seeking audits of all 169 towns that have received federal funds — and broader scrutiny overall as the state and towns are receiving billions of dollars combined over several years.

The calls were made after the arrest of state Rep. Michael DiMassa, a West Haven Democrat who was accused of stealing more than \$600,000 in federal money by billing the city of West Haven for consulting services that federal officials said he never performed.

A six-page FBI affidavit outlined multiple deposits to a consulting firm run by DiMassa, 30, and then cash withdrawals under the \$10,000 threshold that invites scrutiny by the Internal Revenue Service. The affidavit also showed that he purchased tens of thousands of dollars in gambling chips at the Mohegan Sun casino.

Soon after DiMassa's arrest and even before he

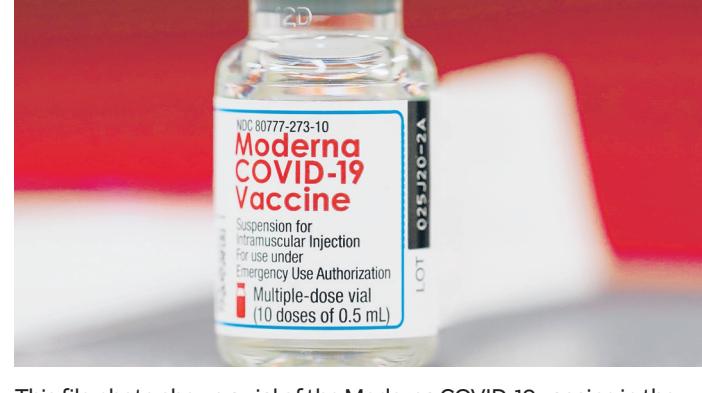
Turn to Funds, Page 3

Thousands more Connecticut residents could soon be eligible for COVID-19 booster

By Alex Putterman
Hartford Courant

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday authorized COVID-19 booster shots for recipients of the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, clearing the way for hundreds of thousands of Connecticut residents to begin seeking them as soon as this weekend.

"The available data suggest waning immunity in some populations who are fully vaccinated," Dr. Janet Woodcock, acting FDA commissioner, said in a statement. "The availability of these authorized boosters is important for continued protection against COVID-19 disease."



This file photo shows a vial of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in the first round of staff vaccinations at a hospital in Denver.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Here is what to know.

Who is now able to get a booster?

If the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention endorses the FDA's decision, the following groups will be newly eligible for booster shots:

- People 65 and older who received their second dose of the Moderna vaccine at least six months ago
- People 18-64 years old who are at high risk of severe COVID-19 due to health conditions who received their second dose of the Moderna vaccine at

Turn to Booster, Page 2

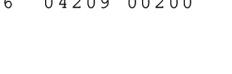
West Hartford town council race getting crowded

Voters in most Connecticut communities face a traditional choice between Democrats and Republicans on Election Day, but in West Hartford the town council race features four political parties and a petitioning candidate. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Opinion **News, 10**
Obits **News, 12-14**
Lottery **News, 2**
Classified **News, 11**
Puzzle **Connecticut, 7, 9**
Comics **Connecticut, 8-9**

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WORLD & NATION



Michael McPherson, chief of the Tampa FBI office, makes a statement Wednesday in Florida.
CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

FBI: Items linked to Laundrie, remains found

By Curt Anderson

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Potential human remains were found Wednesday in a Florida wilderness area along with items believed to belong to Brian Laundrie, whose girlfriend, Gabby Petito, was found slain after he returned home alone from their cross-country road trip, according to the FBI.

Michael McPherson, chief of the Tampa FBI office, said at a news conference that it will take time to identify the remains, which forensic teams were examining. McPherson said they were found near a backpack and a notebook linked to Laundrie.

"We are working diligently to get those answers for you," McPherson said, adding that the items and remains were found in a swampy area — home to alligators, snakes, coyotes

and other wildlife — that had previously been underwater. "It's likely the team will be on site for several days."

Laundrie's parents, Chris and Roberta Laundrie, took part in the search Wednesday with the FBI and police from North Port, Florida, more than a month after Laundrie was reported missing after heading to the vast Carlton Reserve park.

"After a brief search off a trail that Brian frequented some articles belonging to Brian were found," Laundrie family attorney Steven Bertolino said in a text to The Associated Press. "As of now law enforcement is conducting a more thorough investigation of that area."

The Sarasota County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed it had been summoned to the reserve but would not comment further.

Laundrie, 23, is a person

of interest in the killing of Petito, who was reported missing Sept. 11 by her parents while the couple was on a cross-country trip out West.

Petito's body was found Sept. 19 on the edge of Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, which the couple had visited. The coroner there concluded she died of strangulation and her body had been where it was found for three or four weeks.

The couple was stopped Aug. 12 by police in Moab, Utah, after they had a physical altercation, but no charges were filed.

Laundrie returned home alone Sept. 1 in the Ford van the couple took on their trip. He was reported missing after telling his parents on Sept. 14 that he was going for a hike in the Carlton Reserve, a nature preserve in Sarasota County that has for weeks been a key area in the search.

FROM PAGE ONE

Booster

from Page 1

least six months ago

- People 18-64 years old "with frequent institutional or occupational exposure" to COVID-19 who received their second dose of the Moderna vaccine at least six months ago
- Anyone 18 or older who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago

Previously, federal regulators had authorized booster shots for most Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients at least six months after their second dose and had signed off on third doses for all moderately or severely immunocompromised Americans.

On Wednesday, the FDA gave vaccine providers permission to "mix and match" vaccine doses, meaning they may administer booster shots of a different vaccine than the one someone received originally.

A spokesperson for the Connecticut Department of Public Health said the agency does not have updated numbers on how many people in the state are newly eligible for booster shots.

When will Moderna and Johnson & Johnson boosters be available?

The FDA's authorization Wednesday was an important step but not the final one. Next, a CDC advisory panel will meet Thursday to make its own recommendations, which must then be approved by the agency's director.

If the CDC process goes smoothly, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson recipients could be eligible for booster shots as early as this weekend or early next week.

In Connecticut, booster

shots are available at various locations, including public clinics, doctor's offices and pharmacies including CVS and Walgreens.

based on your health, it may not make a huge difference for you."

Cardon said people under 65 without any significant health issues must weigh the potentially minor benefit of a booster shot against the possibility of unpleasant side effects.

"We're working under imperfect information to understand the true benefits of the booster, trying to make some assumptions around who is most likely to benefit," Cardon said. "We know if you're not vaccinated, that's a bad decision. After that, it gets to be more nuanced."

What is demand like? Are appointments available?

Vaccine providers say demand for booster shots has not been nearly as strong as it was during the initial rollout last winter and spring.

According to the Department of Public Health, vaccine providers in Connecticut had administered about 109,949 third doses as of Oct. 13, including about 83,000 since booster shots were approved for several hundred thousand Pfizer-BioNTech recipients in the state in late September. In total, about 3.1% of residents had received a third dose as of Oct. 13.

Though demand is likely to increase when hundreds of thousands more residents become eligible for booster shots in the coming days, officials say most won't have to wait more than a few days to find an appointment. Cardon said Hartford HealthCare has been filling about half of its vaccine appointments and had about 3,000 open slots as of Tuesday.

"There's still no taxing of our ability to meet even an enhanced demand," he said.

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Published daily and Sunday by The Hartford Courant Company (ISSN 1047-4153). Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster send address changes to: The Hartford Courant, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569.

Home delivery rates: Daily and Sunday (7 days), \$17.99; *Thursday through Sunday (4 days) \$13.99; *Thursday, Friday and Sunday (3 days) \$12.50; Thursday and Sunday (2 days) \$10.50; Sunday-only service \$8.99, includes the Thanksgiving paper; Sunday through Friday (6 days) \$12.25; Monday through Friday (5 days) \$12.50; Monday through Saturday (6 days) \$11.58. All subscriptions may include up to 12 premium issues per year. For each premium issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$5.99 in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Premium issues scheduled to date: 1/10/21, 2/14/21, 3/28/21, 4/18/21, 5/16/21, 6/13/21, 7/1/21, 8/8/21, 9/5/21, 10/10/21, 11/21/21, 12/19/21. Dates are subject to change without notice. *Service not available in all areas. Rates may vary based on subscription length. Vacation stops do not extend expiration dates. We may increase home delivery rates with 15 days notice. The Hartford Courant reserves the right to revise or reject any advertisement. Only publication of the advertisement shall constitute acceptance of the advertisement. The Hartford Courant shall not be responsible for the omission, in whole or in part, of any advertisement or for any typographical or other error. The Hartford Courant's liability shall be limited to the amount paid by the advertiser for the first insertion only. In no event shall The Hartford Courant be liable for consequential damages of any kind.



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LOTTERY

Wednesday, Oct. 20

PLAY3 DAY

7 6 5 WB: 7

PLAY4 DAY

4 0 8 6 WB: 4

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit [courant.com/lottery](http://courant.com/).

TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT 0 0 8 WB: 1

PLAY4 NIGHT 4 5 0 8 WB: 7

CASH 5 4 13 24 25 32

LUCKY FOR LIFE 1 8 22 28 44 LB: 7

LOTTO 6 8 9 23 24 39

Zero first-prize winning ticket(s) sold.

MEGA MILLIONS

3 12 13 19 52 MB: 1 MP: 3

Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.8 million

Friday's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$108 million

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FROM PAGE ONE

DiMassa

from Page 1

of the expenditures appear improper and may be potentially fraudulent."

DiMassa was immediately stripped of all committee and leadership assignments Wednesday by House Speaker Matt Ritter of Hartford and House majority leader Jason Rojas of East Hartford.

"Elected officials are rightly held to a high standard of conduct and trust," Ritter and Rojas said in a joint statement. "Even the slightest hint of wrongdoing bruises that trust."

State Senate Republican leaders called on Gov. Ned Lamont to initiate and oversee a statewide audit of all COVID-19 funds.

Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford and deputy leader Paul Formica said that all 169 cities and towns should be audited to restore public confidence that the federal money is being used for proper expenses.

Lamont's budget director, Melissa McCaw, said

the state Office of Policy and Management, known as OPM, is already investigating the use of the public money.

DiMassa is accused of defrauding West Haven with false billings he submitted through the Compass Investment Group, a consulting firm he registered with John Bernardo, also of West Haven. Bernardo is not identified in an FBI affidavit that details the charges against DiMassa.

One example of an alleged fraud detailed in the affidavit involves a May 5 payment by the West Haven "COVID-19 Grant Department" for what is described in the payment voucher as services to the West Haven Health Department for "COVID-19 Legal+ Lobbying+ Site work for COVID-19 Clinic."

According to the affidavit, the invoice listed charges that included "305 hours of Consulting Service-Legislative Review Executive Orders - COVID-19, 483 hours of Consulting Service-Support Staff Services, 305 hours of Monitors/Security Site (April 2021-May 2021),

and 102 hours of Consulting Service Lobbying Service-COVID-19 Federal."

The amount billed to the City of West Haven was \$85,595. West Haven issued a check for that amount the following day, May 6, to Compass Investment Group, LLC.

On May 7, 2021, the check was deposited into the Compass bank account and, over the next 10 days, DiMassa made a succession of six withdrawals in amounts ranging from \$8,200 to \$9,350, according to the affidavit. Over the same period, he is accused of six cash "Buy-ins" for \$33,100 in chips at the Mohegan Sun.

DiMassa, administrative assistant to the West Haven City Council, is among a handful of city officials who received what others in local politics have described as substantial overtime payments for work they did during the pandemic. Rossi said four city employees who report to her — her executive assistant, the public works director, city attorney and personnel director — received over-

time payments.

Rossi said DiMassa does not report to her and she is not aware what, if anything, he received. The New Haven Register reported early last month that DiMassa said he had collected about \$14,000 above his normal salary over the course of the pandemic.

The West Haven City Council late last year authorized Rossi and her two designees — one of whom was DiMassa — to make decisions on how to spend the \$1.2 million in federal COVID funds and to account for the spending. Not long after, DiMassa appeared on an email chain authorizing COVID related spending.

DiMassa made headlines in September 2017 when he announced that he would not accept his legislative salary of \$28,000 per year until the state reached a budget deal. The budget was eventually signed that year on Halloween.

First elected in November 2016, DiMassa serves on the budget-writing appropriations committee, as well as serving on the judiciary and executive nominations committees. His website

said Wednesday that he is still serving as vice chairman of appropriations, but state records show that he is no longer in that position.

While not serving in a top leadership position at the state Capitol in Hartford, DiMassa is a key player in his hometown of West Haven.

A graduate of Albertus Magnus College in 2013 with a bachelor of science degree in business and leadership, DiMassa served until 2013 as an assistant to West Haven's mayor before becoming an administrative aide to the city's registrar of voters.

He later assumed his current position as the city council's clerk and legislative aide to the council.

How West Haven's COVID relief money was spent and who got it was a hot issue in the primary election campaign and remains so going into the November election.

The Courant filed a public records request to West Haven in August for an accounting of how it disbursed what is known as CARES Act money, federal subsidies distributed to all Connecticut cities

and towns to help cover unexpected costs of the pandemic. The city began providing some records last week.

West Haven applied for and received \$1,150,257 for the second half of 2021, from July 1 to Dec. 30. It has until the end of the year to spend the money and had to certify in advance that the money would be spent in accordance with federal CARES Act guidelines.

Rossi's political opponents have tried to weaponize her spending decisions. She said Friday she was shocked to find potential irregularities.

"After reviewing the expenditures, I suspect that some of these funds may have been diverted and not used for the purpose for which they were intended, a thought that sickens me," she said in her internet statement. "I assure all of our residents that if the investigation proves any wrongdoing and fraudulent activity I will demand that anyone involved be held accountable and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Funds

from Page 1

appeared in court Wednesday, state Senate Republican leaders called on Gov. Ned Lamont to initiate and oversee a statewide audit of all COVID-19 funds.

Senate Republican leader Kevin Kelly of Stratford and deputy leader Paul Formica said that all 169 cities and towns should be audited to restore public confidence that the federal money is being used for proper expenses. They called upon Lamont's budget office to oversee the audits of the federal money.

"We ask that your office take immediate action to investigate the use of all relief funds across our state," the senators wrote to Lamont's budget chief. "The allegations and possible misuse of funds are deeply troubling. These funds are intended to help residents and communities recover during one of the most challenging times of a generation."

"To learn that officials may have allegedly diverted funding for other purposes shatters public trust. It is wrong, and it is infuriating. ... Connecticut must build back the people's trust and guarantee that wrongdoings will never go unnoticed and will not be tolerated in any capacity."

Lamont's budget director, Melissa McCaw, responded that the state Office of Policy and Management, known as OPM, is already investigating the use of the public money.

"When we hear of potential misuse of any type of funds, we are deeply disappointed.

pointed and will take action to investigate," McCaw said. "Consequently, OPM is already bringing in an independent auditor and will collaborate with the federal investigation to fully investigate these claims in West Haven and wherever else there are allegations.

"Even prior to the allegations regarding this one town, OPM already ordered every municipality in the state to report their spending to OPM by Oct. 22, and they have been routinely cautioned that their use of funds must meet the highest standards and withstand audit.

"Once we have had an opportunity to review and take part in audits and investigations where necessary, we will take all appropriate steps to remedy fraud, illegal acts, violations or abuse reported and address any internal control weaknesses in order to fulfill our fiduciary responsibility."

House Republican leader Vincent Candelora of North Branford is seeking broader scrutiny of billions of federal dollars that have been sent to state and local coffers.

"While I'm hopeful that the disturbing allegations against Rep. DiMassa in West Haven are a one-off, this case should be a wake-up call to the governor and the public at large," Candelora said.

"A staggering amount of federal relief funds has flowed into Connecticut, and the governor has taken advantage of every opportunity to trumpet all the new programs and grants made possible by these funds and tout the overall positive impact this money can have on our state and its resi-



State Rep. Michael DiMassa, a West Haven Democrat, leaves the United States Courthouse in New Haven with attorney John R. Gulash after DiMassa was arrested by the FBI in a probe of misuse of COVID-19 relief funds. DiMassa is accused of stealing more than \$600,000 in federal money. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

dents.

"But with such a large amount of federal money comes tremendous responsibility, and we've reached a critical juncture where it's not only time for residents to demand accountability and look beyond the governor's

press releases, but for the governor himself to do his part to meet the public halfway and explain exactly how he'll measure the success of his own initiatives and what his administration is doing to track whether funds provided to various entities are being used appropriately."

In March, the legislature passed a bill ensuring that the General Assembly will play a vital role in deciding how \$2.7 billion in federal funding over the next three years is spent.

The measure covered the federal money that will be coming to the state over three years — not federal money going directly to cities and towns for education and other expenses.

The money for the state needs to be allocated and will be distributed in the traditional manner as the state budget — meaning scrutiny by the legislature's

appropriations committee and then votes in the House and Senate with collaboration from Lamont before any money is spent.

The money sent to the towns is overseen by the governor's budget office, which sent a detailed letter to mayors, first selectmen and town finance officers that said the inspector general of the U.S. Department of the Treasury will be conducting an audit of the federal spending.

"Documenting that costs are eligible uses is essential to managing compliance risk and to minimizing the

possibility that the costs are deemed ineligible, thereby requiring that the municipality and the state may need to return funds to the federal government," wrote Martin Heft, an undersecretary in the governor's budget office.

"Municipalities have been asked to document costs clearly with respect to the date and nature of the expense incurred so that together we can best manage resources in the interests of the residents of Connecticut."

Reports for municipal expenses between July 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 are due to the governor's budget office this Friday. The final reporting will be in January 2022.

The reports for the towns are highly detailed, with multiple, separate categories that include cleaning supplies, equipment, food programs, hazard pay, legal fees, overtime, testing, vaccinations and personal protective equipment such as masks and gloves, among others.

Betsy Gara, executive director of the Connecticut Council of Small Towns, said the towns have been explicitly told about the importance of making sure that the expenses are justified.

"The vast majority of municipalities are taking great pains to ensure that the use of COVID-19 funds is consistent with federal guidelines," Gara said Wednesday. "Towns are committed to using COVID-19 funds to support social and economic recovery in their communities."

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

Vaccine

from Page 1

the first two shots, based on company data showing that was plenty to rev up immunity again.

For J&J's single-shot vaccine, the FDA said all U.S. recipients should get a second dose at least two months following their initial vaccination.

The FDA rulings differ because the vaccines are made differently, with different dosing schedules and the J&J vaccine has consistently shown a lower level of effectiveness than either of the two-shot Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

As part of the plan to

vaccinate the youngsters, federal regulators will meet over the next two weeks to weigh the safety and effectiveness of giving low-dose shots to the roughly 28 million children ages 5 to 11.

Within hours of formal approval, which is expected after the Food and Drug Administration signs off and a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advisory panel meets on Nov. 2-3, millions of doses will begin going out to providers across the country, along with the smaller needles needed for injecting young children.

Within days of that, the vaccine will be ready to go into arms on a wide scale.

"We're completing the

operational planning to ensure vaccinations for kids ages 5 to 11 are available, easy and convenient," White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients said. "We're going to be ready, pending the FDA and CDC decision."

The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses three weeks apart and a two-week wait for full protection to kick in, meaning the first youngsters in line will be fully covered by Christmas.

The Biden administration noted that the expansion of shots to children younger than 12 will not look like the start of the country's vaccine rollout 10 months ago, when limited doses and inadequate capacity meant a painstaking wait for many

Americans.

The country now has ample supplies of the Pfizer shot to vaccinate the children who will soon be eligible, officials said, and they have been working for months to ensure widespread availability of shots.

About 15 million doses will be shipped to providers across the U.S. in the first week after approval, the White House said.

More than 25,000 pediatricians and primary care providers have already signed on to dispense the vaccine to elementary school children, the White House said, in addition to the tens of thousands of drugstores that are already administering shots to

adults.

Hundreds of school- and community-based clinics will also be funded and supported by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help speed the process.

The White House is also preparing a stepped-up campaign to educate parents and children about the safety of the shots and the ease of getting them. As has been the case for adult vaccinations, the administration believes trusted messengers — educators, doctors and community leaders — will be vital to encouraging vaccinations.

While children run a lower risk than older people of getting seriously ill from

COVID-19, at least 637 people age 18 or younger have died from the virus in the U.S., according to the CDC. Six million U.S. children been infected, 1 million of them since early September amid the spread of the more contagious delta variant, the American Academy of Pediatrics says.

Health officials believe that expanding the vaccine drive will not only curb the alarming number of infections in children but also reduce the spread of the virus to vulnerable adults.

About 219 million Americans age 12 and older, or 66% of the total population, have received a COVID-19 shot, and nearly 190 million are fully vaccinated.

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Cruz pleads guilty to Fla. massacre

Several parents scoff at Parkland shooter's apology for '18 attack

By Terry Spencer
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Nikolas Cruz pleaded guilty Wednesday to murdering 17 people during a rampage at his former high school in Parkland, Florida, leaving a jury to decide whether he will be executed for one of the nation's deadliest school shootings.

Relatives of the victims who sat in the courtroom and watched the hearing via Zoom broke down in tears and held hands across families as Cruz entered his pleas and later apologized for his crimes.

"Today we saw a cold and calculating killer confess to the murder of my daughter Gina and 16 other innocent victims at their school," said Tony Montalto. His daughter was 14 and sitting outside her classroom when Cruz shot her at close range numerous times.

"His guilty pleas are the first step in the judicial process but there is no change for my family. Our bright, beautiful and beloved daughter Gina is gone while her killer still enjoys the blessing of life in prison."

The guilty pleas will set the stage for a penalty trial in which 12 jurors will determine whether Cruz, 23, should be sentenced to death or life in prison without parole. Given the case's notoriety, Circuit Judge Elizabeth Scherer plans to screen thousands of prospective jurors. Jury selection is scheduled to begin Jan. 4.

Cruz entered his pleas



Gena Hoyer, right, hugs Debbi Hixon after Nikolas Cruz's plea Wednesday. AMY BETH BENNETT/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

after answering questions from Scherer aimed at confirming his mental competency. He was charged with 17 counts of murder and 17 counts of attempted first-degree murder for those wounded in the Feb. 14, 2018, attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, just outside Fort Lauderdale.

As several parents shook their heads, Cruz apologized, saying, "I'm very sorry for what I did. ... I can't live with myself sometimes." He also added that he wished it was up to the survivors to determine whether he lived or died.

Parents scoffed at Cruz's statement as they left the

courtroom, saying it seemed aimed at eliciting unearned sympathy.

Gena Hoyer, whose 15-year-old son, Luke, died in the shooting, saw it as part of a defense strategy "to keep a violent, evil person off death row."

She said her son was "a sweet young man who had a life ahead of him and the person you saw in there today chose to take his life. He does not deserve life in prison."

Anthony Borges, a former Stoneman Douglas student who was shot five times, told reporters after the hearing that he accepted Cruz's apology, but noted that it was not up to him to decide

the confessed murderer's fate.

"He made a decision to shoot the school," Borges said. "I am not God to make the decision to kill him or not. That's not my decision. My decision is to be a better person and to change the world for every kid. I don't want this to happen to anybody again. It hurts. It hurts. It really hurts."

Cruz's attorneys announced his intention to plead guilty during a hearing last week.

Following the pleas Wednesday, former Broward County State Attorney Mike Satz recounted the details of the murders.

Cruz killed 14 students

and three staff members during a seven-minute rampage through a three-story building at Stoneman Douglas, investigators said. They said he shot victims in the hallways and in classrooms with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle, sometimes returning to the wounded to kill them with additional shots.

Cruz had been expelled from Stoneman Douglas a year earlier after a history of threatening, frightening, unusual and sometimes violent behavior that dated back to preschool. After Satz finished, the judge had to compose herself for several seconds before she began speaking again, her voice

breaking.

Satz, 79, stepped down as state attorney in January after 44 years, but remains Cruz's chief prosecutor.

The shootings caused some Stoneman Douglas students to launch the March for Our Lives movement, which pushes for stronger gun restrictions nationally.

By having Cruz plead guilty, his attorneys will be able to argue during the penalty hearing that he took responsibility for his actions.

As at any trial, prosecutors will present evidence of the shooting, including security video that reportedly shows many of the killings. They will also be allowed to show evidence that Cruz had long planned the attack. There will be testimony from students and teachers who were in the building, including some who were wounded.

The defense will present mitigating evidence that will likely include testimony about Cruz's life, including his history of mental and emotional instability, his father's death when he was 5 and his mother's death four months before the shootings, when he was 19.

To impose a death sentence, all 12 jurors must agree. If they do, Scherer will make the final decision.

The 17 Parkland victims: Alyssa Alhadeff, 14; Scott Beigel, 35; Martin Duque, 14; Nick Dworet, 17; Aaron Feis, 37; Jaime Guttenberg, 14; Christopher Hixon, 49; Luke Hoyer, 15; Cara Loughran, 14; Gina Montalto, 14; Joaquin Oliver, 17; Alaina Petty, 14; Meadow Pollack, 18; Helena Ramsay, 17; Alex Schachter, 14; Carmen Schentrup, 16; and Peter Wang, 15.

Biden revisits the past in making a pitch at future

President promotes scaled-back agenda in trip to hometown

By Lisa Mascaro,
Darlene Superville
and Alan Fram
Associated Press

SCRANTON, Pa. — President Joe Biden returned to his birthplace Wednesday for the first time since taking office, declaring his multitrillion-dollar safety net and infrastructure packages would restore an America starving for investments in its workers, families and the environment.

The president scolded doubters who focus on divides among Democratic lawmakers that could jeopardize the cornerstone policies of his administration, and he acknowledged he has scaled back his ambitions in order to garner support. But his legislative efforts — now expected to be about \$2 trillion and \$1 trillion each — would still be an unprecedented attempt to expand social services for millions and tackle the rising threat of climate change as well as update roads and bridges.

"This has been declared dead on arrival from the moment I introduced it, but I think we're going to

surprise them because I think people are beginning to figure out what's at stake," Biden said.

"These bills are about competitiveness versus complacency" in the world, he said at Scranton's Electric City Trolley Museum.

Biden and his Democratic Party are racing to seal agreement on the legislative package after laboring for months to bridge his once-sweeping \$3.5 trillion vision preferred by progressives with a more limited focus that can win over party centrists. He has no Democratic votes to spare for passage in the closely divided Congress, and leaders want agreement by week's end.

In the mix: At least \$500 billion to confront climate change, \$350 billion for child care subsidies and free pre-kindergarten, a new federal program for at least four weeks of paid family leave, a one-year extension of the \$300 monthly child tax credit put in place during the COVID-19 crisis, and funding for health care provided through the Affordable Care Act and Medicare.

Likely to be eliminated or shaved back: plans for tuition-free community college, a path to permanent

nent legal status for certain immigrants in the U.S. and a clean energy plan that was the centerpiece of Biden's strategy for fighting climate change.

"Nothing is decided until everything is decided," said Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., leader of the Congressional Progressive Caucus after a morning meeting of House Democrats.

The Democrats appear ready to abandon what had been a loftier package in favor of a smaller, more workable proposal the party can unite around — all to be funded by tax hikes on corporations and the wealthiest individuals, those earning more than \$400,000 a year though those details are still being negotiated.

"Here's the deal: If you spent \$3 on your coffee this morning, that's more than what 55 major corporations paid in taxes in recent years," Biden tweeted.

Yet a day after Biden outlined his ideas for trimming back some components to lawmakers, it was clear that the effort remained a work in progress as several Democrats signaled they were still fighting for their priorities. Biden said he thinks a deal is within reach by the time he



President Joe Biden touts his spending and infrastructure vision Wednesday after touring the Electric City Trolley Museum in his hometown of Scranton. NICHOLAS KAMM/GETTY-AFP

departs for a global summit next week.

Democrats are growing anxious they have little to show voters and have had trouble explaining what they're trying to do with the massive package, made up of so many different proposals.

In scaling back the bill, they are heeding the political realities of the 50-50 Senate, where Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona have objected to Biden's expansive plans.

The Democrats are also

trying to coalesce around a politically marketable theme: helping middle-income families weather the COVID-19 economic fallout, while also taking on tax code inequities and the looming threat of climate change.

The president especially wants to advance his signature domestic package to bolster federal social services and address climate change by the time he departs for a global climate summit next week.

A key holdout on Biden's

proposals, conservative

Manchin has made clear he opposes the president's initial Clean Energy Performance Plan, which would have the government impose penalties on electric utilities that fail to meet clean energy benchmarks and provide financial rewards to those that do.

Instead, Biden is focused on providing at least \$500 billion in tax credits, grants and loans to fight climate change, much of it likely to include tax breaks for energy producers that reach emission-reduction goals.

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WORLD & NATION

In the land of 'The Godfather,' a ban on them

By Jason Horowitz
The New York Times

CATANIA, Italy — The mother had prepared everything for the baptism. She dressed her infant son Antonio in a handmade satin suit with tails and a matching cream-colored top hat glittering with rhinestones. She hired the photographers and bought the baby a gold cross. She booked a big buffet lunch for the whole clan at the Copacabana.

But as the parish priest in the Sicilian city of Catania went through the usual liturgy, calling on the family to renounce Satan and ladling holy water on the squirming baby's head, one major part of the ritual went missing.

There was no godfather.

"It's not right," said Agata Peri, 68, little Antonio's great-grandmother. "I definitely didn't make this decision."

The church did.

That weekend in October, the Roman Catholic diocese of Catania enacted a three-year ban on the tradition of naming godparents at baptisms and christenings. Church officials argue that the once-essential figure in a child's Catholic education has lost all spiritual significance. Instead, they say, it has become a networking opportunity for families looking to improve their fortunes, secure endowments of gold necklaces and make advantageous connections, sometimes with local power brokers who have dozens of godchildren.

God parenting, church officials said, had fallen to earth as a secular custom between relatives or neighbors — many deficient in faith or living in sin, and was now a mere method of strengthening family ties.

And sometimes mob ties too.

Italian prosecutors have tracked baptisms to map out how underworld bosses spread influence, and mob widows in court have saved



Antonio Sparti is baptized this month at a church in Catania, Italy. Part of the Catholic church in Sicily has barred naming godparents because it's a way to fortify family ties — and mob ties. GIANNI CIPRIANO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

their most poisonous spite for "the real Judases" who betray the baptismal bond. It is a transgression most associated with, well, "The Godfather," especially the baptism scene when Michael Corleone renounces Satan in church as his henchmen whack all of his enemies.

But church officials warn that secularization more than anything led them to rub out the godparents, a Sicilian thing that's been going on for 2,000 years, or at least since the church's dicey first days, when sponsors known to bishops vouched for converts to prevent pagan infiltration.

"It's an experiment," said Monsignor Salvatore Genchi, the vicar general of Catania, as he held a copy of the ban in his office behind the city's basilica. A godfather to at least 15 godchildren, the monsignor said he was well qualified for the role, but he estimated that 99% of the diocese's godparents were not.

The break would allow

the church some time to send Catania back to Catholic school, but Genchi was not optimistic that it would stick. "It seems very difficult to me," he said, "that one can turn back."

The Rev. Angelo Alfio Mangano, of the Saint Maria in Ognina church in Catania, welcomed the ban, especially because it gave him a rest from spiritually questionable characters using "threats against the parish priest" to pressure him and others into naming them godfather.

Sometimes, he said, the position was used for social blackmail and usury, but mostly it became a method to enforce Sicily's entrenched culture of ritual kinship.

"It creates a stronger tie between the families," said Nino Sicali, 68, as he sliced a swordfish with a machete at the Catania fish market. When he was made a godfather, he said, he reciprocated by making his godson's father a "compare" — or co-father — to his own chil-

dren. Over the years, Sicali said he was obligated to help his struggling compare out financially. "He died owing me 12,000 euros," he said.

Some families sought out godfathers who opened doors.

Salvatore Cuffaro, a former president of Sicily, said that he did not have many baptismal godchildren, "just about 20," agreeing to only about 5% of requests. He was sought after, he said, for his "Christian principles," demonstrated over decades of political life.

"Despite what some priests think, I paid attention to all of my baptismal godchildren" and instructed them to go to Catholic school, he said.

Cuffaro, nicknamed "Kiss Kiss" for his tendency to kiss everyone, served nearly five years in prison for helping alert a Mafia boss that he was being wiretapped. He denied those charges, and denied that a Mafioso had ever served as godfather to anyone on the island.

"At least in Sicily, where I have lived, this doesn't exist," he said. "It's only a religious bond; there are no bonds of illegality."

He worried that by getting rid of the tradition, the church was "throwing the baby out with the bathwater."

Parents baptizing their children in churches across Catania on the first Sunday of the ban were likewise appalled at the loss of a beloved tradition.

"It's shocking," said Jalissa Testa, 21, who celebrated her son's baptism at the Catania basilica by dancing. "In our hearts we know, and they will know, that he has a godfather."

Even the family that received special dispensation to have a godfather because a death in the family had delayed their previously scheduled baptism was vexed by the rule.

"I don't understand why the church is doing this," Ivan Arena, 29, who may be the last godfather of Catania, said after the baptism of

his nephew. "I'm for the old traditions."

After that ceremony, the priest turned to the family across the central nave. The women shimmered in sequins and the men wore monkish mullets — short in the front, long in the back, shaved around the ears.

"What difference does it make," said the proud father, Nicola Sparti, 24, who described his occupation as "a little bit of this, a little bit of that." ("Flees from Carabinieri on a motorbike," read a recent newspaper article about him.) "One day the godfather's there and the next he's gone. But a father is forever."

Sparti and his wife then drove to the nearby city Aci Trezza for a photo shoot in front of the three majestic sea rocks that, legend has it, the Cyclops heaved at the fleeing Odysseus. They put Antonio in a miniature, remote-controlled white Mercedes and cheered as he cruised the port.

Above them, the Rev. Giovanni Mammino, the city's vicar general, came out of the St. John the Baptist church after celebrating a christening. His diocese required forms from godfathers swearing that they were believers and not Mafia members. Unlike Catania, he said, his diocese had taken a middle road, allowing godparents, but not requiring them.

Now, people are slipping over the Catania border for baptisms.

"They keep coming here so that they can have the godfathers," he said.

The Sparti family, though, had played by the rules and came only for lunch. They drove to the nearby Copacabana, where they celebrated with generations of parents and godparents.

Alfio Motta, 22, Antonio's uncle, watched it all from the DJ console, thinking of what could have been.

"I feel like the godfather," he said. "Even if I don't have the title."



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Progressive prosecutors take a stand

But failing to enforce GOP-led laws could have repercussions

By Jonathan Mattise
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — When Republican lawmakers in Tennessee blocked a policy to ease up on low-level marijuana cases, Nashville's top prosecutor decided on a workaround: He just didn't charge anyone with the crime.

Meanwhile, in Georgia, the Gwinnett County solicitor vowed not to punish anyone for the crime of distributing food or water to voters in line. The chief prosecutor in Tampa, Florida, says a law that allows law enforcement to detain protesters until their court date is "an assault on our democracy." And a district attorney in Douglas County, Kansas, promised not to enforce a new state law that makes it harder for nonpartisan groups and neighbors and candidates to collect and return absentee ballots for voters.

Progressive prosecutors around the country are increasingly declaring they just won't enforce some GOP-backed state laws, a strategy at work in response to some of the most controversial new changes in recent years — near-total abortion bans, voting restrictions, limits on certain protest activity, laws aimed at LGBTQ people, and restrictions on mask requirements.

The elected law enforcement leaders say they're just doing what is right as support has grown for changing a system they believe has relied too heavily on locking people up, particularly for low-level, nonviolent offenses.

But these lawyers live in deep-blue districts where their decisions are popular with voters, and they have to be reelected.

"The real limit on this is



Glenn Funk, the top prosecutor in Nashville, Tennessee, has made a habit of resisting Republican-passed laws, saying people in his city "really want a common sense approach to the criminal justice system." MARK HUMPHREY/AP 2019

political," said William & Mary Law School professor Jeffrey Bellin. "These prosecutors have to stand for election almost everywhere in the country."

Prosecutors wield wide discretion over whom to charge with crimes, and they can hold off based on factors that include the strength of an individual case, the severity of the offense and, sometimes, the prosecutor's views on a law's constitutionality.

"We know that our country has seen a past where some have sought to criminalize interracial marriage or individuals of different race who choose to sit at a lunch counter together, or ride a bus together, or use certain bathrooms and certain drinking fountains," said Miriam Krinsky, executive director of Fair and Just Prosecution, which published the statements.

"Change often starts at the ground and moves its way

on up."

In Nashville, Glenn Funk has made a habit of resisting GOP-passed laws, saying people in his city "really want a common sense approach to the criminal justice system that keeps us safe and does not incarcerate folks without good reason." The Democrat's stand comes as his 2022 Nashville reelection bid is approaching, in which he expects a challenge for another eight-year term.

Funk rebuffed Republican Gov. Bill Lee this summer, saying he would not prosecute teachers and school officials enforcing mask mandates in defiance of an executive order that let parents opt their students out of mask mandates.

Funk said he "will not prosecute school officials or teachers for keeping children safe."

He also refused to enforce a 2020 law requiring medical professionals to inform

women undergoing medication-induced abortions that the procedure could be reversed, which medical experts say is not backed by science. He deemed the law "unconstitutional" and said "criminal law must not be used by the State to exercise control over a woman's body."

Tennessee passed a first-of-its-kind law this year that required a notice outside public bathrooms at businesses that effectively says transgender people could be inside. Funk made it known that he wouldn't be enforcing that, either, saying his office "will not promote hate."

Judges paused the policies about bathroom signs and abortion reversals statewide and blocked the school mask opt-outs in three big counties.

Funk said prosecutors need to use the "levers of power" to provide a check and balance on overreach-

ing" by other branches of government.

"It's also incumbent, I think, upon public officials who disagree to stand up and say so," Funk told The Associated Press. "Because if people who are elected officials just stay quiet in the face of unconstitutional laws being passed, in the face of a social debate that might actually be dehumanizing large sections of our population, then if nobody speaks up, then the impression is that there is not another side to this argument, and that there really is no argument."

A Vermont state's attorney isn't prosecuting possession of addiction therapy drugs.

Seattle's county prosecutor stopped filing charges for small personal drug possession, and a prosecutor in Washtenaw County, Michigan, and multiple prosecutors in New York City have stopped charging prostitution crimes as long as it's

consensual. In Philadelphia, before federal courts blocked the opening of overdose prevention sites, the district attorney said he would not charge people who open and run them.

In Florida, 13th Judicial Circuit State Attorney Andrew Warren, covering the Tampa area, called one new state law "an assault on our democracy." It stiffens penalties for crimes committed during a riot or violent protest and was passed after protests in the wake of George Floyd's death. It's on hold by a federal judge.

But prosecutorial discretion can cut both ways — especially on COVID-19 mandates. In Pennsylvania, York County District Attorney Dave Sunday, a Republican, told police not to issue criminal citations related to Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf's statewide schools masking order, saying his office would not prosecute violations.

Elsewhere in Tennessee, conservative district attorney Craig Northcott in Coffee County has said gay people shouldn't receive domestic violence protections, arguing that such laws are designed to protect the "sanctity of marriage."

Nashville's GOP lawmakers have aired grievances about Funk, though their efforts to rein him in have been unsuccessful. Rep. John Ragan, who sponsored the business bathroom signage law, asked the state attorney general for an opinion on whether Funk's refusal to enforce the business bathroom law was grounds to remove him from office. Republican Attorney General Herbert Slatery's office declined to weigh in, citing lawsuits on the law.

And Gov. Lee maligned him on social media: "A district attorney purposefully disregarding current, duly enacted laws by the legislature is a grave matter that threatens our justice system and has serious consequences," he tweeted.



Vice President Kamala Harris meets the media after a voting rights bill put forth by Democrats again failed to pass in the Senate on Wednesday in Washington. ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Senate GOP blocks election bill from Dems for 3rd time

By Brian Slodysko
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For the third time this year, Senate Democrats on Wednesday tried to pass sweeping elections legislation that they tout as a powerful counterweight to new voting restrictions in the states.

Once again, Republicans blocked them.

But amid the stalemate, there are signs that Democrats are making headway in their effort to create consensus around changing Senate procedural rules, a key step that could allow them to muscle transformative legislation through the narrowly divided chamber.

Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who caucuses with Democrats, recently eased his longstanding opposition to changing the filibuster rules, which create a 60-vote threshold for most legislation to pass.

"I've concluded that democracy itself is more important than any Senate rule," said King, who acknowledged that weakening the filibuster would likely prove to be a "double-edged sword" under a

Republican majority.

Democrats still face long odds of passing the Freedom to Vote Act, which Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., excoriated Wednesday as a federal "election takeover scheme."

But the softening of King's stance on the filibuster amounts to incremental progress for Senate Democrats.

"What we can't accept is a situation where one side is calling for bipartisan debate and bipartisan cooperation while the other refuses to even engage in a dialogue," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said from the chamber's floor.

The Democrats' voting bill was first introduced in March in the wake of the Jan. 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol. It quickly passed the House at a time when Republican-controlled legislatures — many inspired by former President Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen 2020 election — were advancing restrictions in the name of election security that will limit, but not prohibit, state voter ID requirements.

But so far, those changes have not attracted the Republican support that Manchin was seeking.

tion of the elections more subject to partisan interference.

As written, the current "compromise" version of the bill would establish national rules for running elections, limit partisanship in the drawing of congressional districts and force the disclosure of many anonymous donors who spend big to influence elections.

Other provisions are aimed at alleviating concerns from local elections officials, who worried that the original bill would have been too difficult to implement. And some new additions are aimed at insulating nonpartisan election officials, who may be subject to greater partisan pressure under some of the new state laws.

It also includes a number of changes sought by Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, the chamber's most conservative Democrat and who also opposes ending the filibuster, including a provision that would limit, but not prohibit, state voter ID requirements.

With no lasting success and much public uproar, scientists turned from

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But so far, those changes have not attracted the Republican support that Manchin was seeking.

Transplant of pig's kidney in human a 'significant step'

By Carla K. Johnson
Associated Press

Scientists temporarily attached a pig's kidney to a human body and watched it begin to work, a small step in the decades-long quest to one day use animal organs for life-saving transplants.

Pigs have been the most recent research focus to address the organ shortage, but among the hurdles: A sugar in pig cells, foreign to the human body, causes immediate organ rejection.

The kidney for this experiment came from a gene-edited animal, engineered to eliminate that sugar and avoid an immune system attack. Surgeons attached the pig kidney to a pair of large blood vessels outside the body of a deceased recipient so they could observe it for two days.

The kidney did what it was supposed to do — filter waste and produce urine — and didn't trigger rejection.

"It had absolutely normal function," said Dr. Robert Montgomery, who led the surgical team last month at NYU Langone Health. "It didn't have this immediate rejection that we have worried about."

This research is "a significant step," said Dr. Andrew Adams of the University of Minnesota Medical School, who was not part of the work. It will reassure patients, researchers and regulators "that we're moving in the right direction."

The dream of animal-to-human transplants — or xenotransplantation — goes back to the 17th century with stumbling attempts to use animal blood for transfusions. By the 20th century, surgeons were attempting transplants of organs from baboons into humans, notably Baby Fae, a dying infant, who lived 21 days with a baboon heart.

With no lasting success and much public uproar, scientists turned from



Scientists temporarily attached a kidney from a gene-edited pig to a human body and watched it work, a small step in a quest to use animal organs for transplants. REVIVICOR

primates to pigs, tinkering with their genes to bridge the species gap.

Pigs have advantages over monkeys and apes. They are produced for food, so using them for organs raises fewer ethical concerns. Pigs have large litters, short gestation periods and organs comparable to humans.

Pig heart valves also have been used successfully for decades in humans. The blood thinner heparin is derived from pig intestines. Pig skin grafts are used on burns and Chinese surgeons have used pig corneas to restore sight. In the NYU case, researchers kept a deceased woman's body

going on a ventilator after her family agreed to the experiment. The woman had wished to donate her organs, but they weren't suitable for traditional donation. The family felt "there was a possibility that some good could come from this gift," Montgomery said.

Montgomery himself received a transplant three years ago, a human heart from a donor with hepatitis C because he was willing to take any organ. "I was one

of those people lying in an ICU waiting and not knowing whether an organ was going to come in time," he said.

Several biotech companies are in the running to develop suitable pig organs for transplant to help ease the human organ shortage. More than 90,000 people in the U.S. are in line for a kidney transplant. Every day, 12 die while waiting.

The advance is a win for Revivicor, a subsidiary of United Therapeutics, the company that engineered the pig and its cousins, a herd of 100 raised in tightly controlled conditions in Iowa.

The pigs lack a gene that produces alpha-gal, the sugar that provokes an immediate attack from the human immune system.

In December, the Food and Drug Administration approved the gene alteration in the Revivicor pigs as safe for human food consumption and medicine.

But the FDA said developers would need to submit more paperwork before pig organs could be transplanted into living humans.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Report: New criminal probe targets Trump golf club over taxes

From news services

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump's company is under criminal investigation by a district attorney in a New York City suburb into whether it misled officials to cut taxes for a golf course there, according to The New York Times.

The district attorney's office subpoenaed records from both the Trump National Golf Club in Westchester and the town of Ossining that handles the club's taxes, said the Times, citing "people with knowledge of the matter." The newspaper didn't say why those people had requested anonymity.

The probe led by District Attorney Mimi Rocah, a Democrat, appears to focus in part on whether the former president's company submitted misleading valuations on the golf course.

In a statement, the Trump Organization suggested the probe was politically motivated, noting that it had hammered out a compromise with the town over its long-running efforts to cut taxes in June, a deal signed off by a county judge.

"The suggestion that anything was inappropriate is completely false and incredibly irresponsible," the Trump statement said. "The witch hunt continues."

The district attorney's office has not accused anyone at the company of wrongdoing and it was not clear if the probe will ultimately lead to any charges. A spokesperson for the office, Jess Vecchiarelli, wouldn't confirm the probe to The Associated Press, stating only, "We have no comment."

The probe adds to several legal challenges facing the former president and

his company. In July, the Manhattan district attorney indicted the company and its longtime financial chief with allegedly failing to pay taxes on employee perks, like cars and apartments. Both the company and the finance chief, Allen Weisselberg, have pleaded not guilty.

Prize for Navalny: Imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who narrowly survived a poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin, was awarded the European Union's top human rights prize Wednesday in a clear slap at President Vladimir Putin.

In awarding the Sakharov Prize to Navalny, the European Parliament praised his "immense personal bravery." The 45-year-old activist fell ill from a nerve agent poisoning last year and recuperated in Germany, then was promptly arrested upon his return to Moscow and later imprisoned.

"He has campaigned consistently against the corruption of Vladimir Putin's regime, and through his social media accounts and political campaigns, Navalny has helped expose abuses and mobilize the support of millions of people across Russia. For this, he was poisoned and thrown in jail," parliament President David Sassoli in a statement.

Sassoli called for the immediate release of Navalny, who is Putin's biggest domestic foe.

There was no immediate reaction to the award from the Kremlin, which denies any involvement in Navalny's poisoning.

Navalny's top associate Leonid Volkov said the prize showed that hundreds of lawmakers from different countries and parties agree the fight against corruption is an issue for all of Europe



Syrian firefighters and a security officer examine a burned bus Wednesday at the site of a deadly explosion in Damascus, Syria. Two roadside bombs exploded near a bus carrying troops. Fourteen people were killed, making it one of the deadliest in the capital in years. A group calling itself the Qasioun Brigades claimed responsibility for the attack. **SANA**

and that Navalny is "political prisoner No. 1 in the world and Putin's personal captive."

The \$58,200 prize will be presented at the Dec. 15 session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

Koreatensions: North Korea said Wednesday that it had test-fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine, in its first such underwater test-launch in two years and one it says will bolster its military's underwater capabilities.

The test Tuesday was the fifth round of missile launches since September and came as North Korea steps up pressure on Washington and Seoul to abandon what Pyongyang sees as hostile policies such as joint U.S.-South Korea military drills and international sanctions on the North.

North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency said the latest test "will greatly contribute to putting the defense technology of the country on a

high level and to enhancing the underwater operational capability of our navy." It said the new missile has introduced advanced control guidance technologies including flank mobility and gliding skip mobility.

Flint water: The only Michigan official fired in the Flint water catastrophe likely was a "public scapegoat" who lost her job because of politics, an arbitrator said in ordering \$191,880 in back pay and other compensation.

It's a remarkable victory for Liane Shekter Smith, who served as head of the state's drinking water office when Flint's water system was contaminated with lead. She was removed and then fired in 2016 and subsequently faced criminal charges in one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history.

Shekter Smith was dismissed while engineers in her department were suspended with pay before ultimately returning to work, the arbitrator said in

a 22-page report obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Sheldon Stark said the state had failed to show by a preponderance of evidence that there was "just cause" to fire Shekter Smith, who had an "exemplary" record in government.

India floods: At least 46 people have died and several are missing after floods triggered by heavy rains hit the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, officials said Wednesday.

Rescuers worked through the night to retrieve bodies stuck in debris and to evacuate those in vulnerable areas, said S.A. Murugesan, secretary of the state's disaster management. On Tuesday, officials said 22 people were killed by the rains.

The mountainous state has seen incessant rains for the past three days, flooding roads, destroying bridges and causing landslides in which several homes were washed away. The situation has prompted help from about 2,000 members of the

paramilitary and civil police.

Tigray crisis: New airstrikes hit the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region and another community on Wednesday, as video from Mekele showed injured people with bloodied faces being rushed to vehicles and thick black smoke rising in the sky. Ethiopia's government said it targeted facilities to make and repair weapons, which a spokesman for the rival Tigray forces denied.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said it is slashing by more than half its Tigray presence as an Ethiopian government blockade halts humanitarian aid efforts and people die from lack of food. At least 14 people were injured in the airstrikes in Mekele and three were in critical condition, said Hayelom Kebede, the former director of Tigray's Ayder Referral Hospital.

Another airstrike hours later hit Agbe between the communities of Hagere Selam and Tembien, he said, describing the site as a "center of military training and heavy artillery depot."

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10/22 Classic Stones Live: Rolling Stones Tribute
Front man Keith Call has all of the swagger of Jagger, along with Bernie Bollendorf, who portrays R&R outlaw Keith Richards, the duo is notoriously hailed as "The Glimmer Twins".

10/23 Met Opera in HD: Fire Shut Up in My Bones
Shown on the Kate's Big Screen. An opera by Terence Blanchard, based on the book by Charles M. Blow. A profound story about a young man's journey to overcome a lifetime of trauma and hardship.

10/23 Livingston Taylor
A 50-year career that has encompassed performance, songwriting, and teaching. From coffeehouses to top-40 hits, he's shared the stage with some of the biggest names.

10/27 Darlingside
The band has long been praised for their harmonies and intelligent songwriting, described by NPR as "exquisitely-arranged, literary-minded, baroque folk-pop."

10/28 Takin' it to the Streets: Doobie Brothers Tribute
This incredible concert performance covers all of The Doobie's great hits and an occasional deep track or two with stunning accuracy.

10/29 Peter Wolf and the Midnight Travelers
Probably best known as the lead vocalist of the J. Geils Band, Peter has since been making his own music after going solo in 1984.

10/30 Frames in Film: Raphael Revealed

10/30 John Cafferty & the Beaver Brown Band
Legendary "East Coast Rock'n'Roll" group, began in 1972 with mainstream success in the 1980s with the "Eddie & The Cruisers - Motion Picture Soundtrack".

10/31 Tab Benoit
Grammy nominated singer, songwriter and guitarist known for his gritty and soulful Delta swamp blues.

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Woodford Reserve 750ml \$34.99	818 Silver Tequila 750 ml \$39.99	Stella Artois 12 Pack 12 oz Btls or Cans Plus Dep. \$14.99
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US firms await fine print of vaccination-or-test rule

White House officials signal enforcement deadline, penalties to be unveiled soon

By Zeke Miller and David Koenig

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than six weeks after promising a new vaccination-or-testing rule covering the millions of Americans at companies with 100 or more workers, President Joe Biden's most aggressive move yet to combat the COVID-19 pandemic is almost ready to see the light of day.

An obscure White House office is expected to give the green light any day to the rule's fine print detailing how and when companies will have to require their employees to be vaccinated or undergo weekly testing.

The full enforcement deadline, which could carry penalties of \$14,000 per violation, may not take effect until after the new year. That's why Biden and his aides have for weeks encouraged businesses to act as though the rule was already in effect and start imposing vaccination requirements.

The regulation, to be published in the Federal Register, was drafted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration

under emergency authorities to protect worker safety and will cover an estimated 80 million U.S. workers. The White House sees it as a potent tool to winnow down the roughly 65 million Americans who have thus far refused to get a shot.

Unlike health care providers or federal employees, who may not have a testing alternative to vaccination, private-sector workers won't necessarily face termination if they don't get vaccinated. But some businesses may choose to impose their own more stringent vaccination mandate, and it's possible that businesses may be allowed to pass on the cost of weekly COVID-19 testing to their unvaccinated employees.

White House officials declined to discuss when the rule will be published or go into details on when businesses will have to comply.

For the last week, federal officials have hosted more than two dozen listening sessions with industry groups, businesses and advocacy organizations. Some have been supportive of the rule, others opposed, but all are eager to learn more about the fine

print of the regulation.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other groups that represent large employers are worried that the proposal's threshold — applying to companies with 100 or more employees — could cause workers to migrate to jobs at smaller employers where they won't need to be vaccinated.

"We really stressed the concern about employers losing employees, and what that would mean in the context of current supply-chain challenges and the upcoming holiday season," said Marc Freedman, vice president for employment policy at the Chamber of Commerce.

Freedman, who took part in the chamber's call with administration officials, said the 100-worker threshold would also hurt job creation by giving employers who have 90 or 95 employees a reason not to expand.

It is not clear how the business community will respond once the final rule is published.

Business officials said legal challenges are more likely to come from Republican-led states such as Texas.



Two women at a Tokyo store with over 3,000 gachapon vending machines. The machines dispense toys in small plastic capsules. Hundreds of products are introduced monthly and videos of gachapon spending sprees have gone viral. NORIKO HAYASHI/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Dull toys shine in pandemic

Reproductions of everyday items from Japanese capsule vending machines are prized

By Ben Dooley and Hisako Ueno

The New York Times

TOKYO — Yoshiaki Yamanishi set out to create the most boring toy imaginable.

In the universe of Japanese capsule vending machines, the competition is strong. Anyone with pocket change could have been rewarded in recent months with a miniature toy gas meter that doubles as a step counter or a doll-size plastic gasoline can with a functioning nozzle.

But when Yamanishi landed upon the idea of making a series of ultrarealistic split-unit air-conditioners late last year, he was confident he had a hit. Aficionados across Japan rushed to snatch up the tiny machines, complete with air ducts and spinning fans.

To the list of unlikely winners of the pandemic add Japan's hundreds of thousands of capsule vending machines. Called gachapon — onomatopoeia that captures the sound of the little plastic bubbles as they tumble through the machines' works

and land with a comic book thump — they dispense toys at random with the turn of a dial. Hundreds of new products are introduced each month, and videos of gachapon shopping sprees rack up millions of views.

The toys, also known as gachapon, have traditionally been aimed at children. But their popularity has been accompanied, or perhaps driven, by a surge in what the industry calls "original" goods geared toward adults — including wearable bonnets for cats and replicas of everyday objects, the more mundane the better.

Isolated in their plastic spheres, the tiny reproductions feel like a metaphor for COVID-19-era life. On social media, people arrange their purchases in wistful tableaus of life outside the bubble. Some have faithfully recreated drab offices, outfitted with whiteboards and paper shredders.

For Yamanishi, whose company, Toys Cabin, is based near Tokyo, success is "not about whether it sells or not."

"You want people to ask themselves, 'Who in the world would buy this?'" he said.

In recent years, the answer is young women. They make up more than 70% of the market, and have been especially active in promoting the toys on social media, said

Katsuhiko Onoo, head of the Japan Gachagacha Association. (Gachagacha is an alternative term for the toys.)

That enthusiasm has helped double the market for the toys over the last decade, with annual sales reaching nearly \$360 million at more than 600,000 gachapon machines by 2019, the most recent year for which data is available.

The products are not particularly profitable for most makers, but they offer designers a creative outlet and find a ready customer base in a country that has always had a taste for whimsy, said Hiroaki Omatu, who writes a weekly column about the toys for a website run by the Asahi Shimbun, a Japanese newspaper.

"Creating gachapon for adults is all about devoting yourself to making something that's worthless," he said. "This is ridiculous' is the highest form of praise."

Selling gachapon is not too different from buying them. Predicting what people will like is nearly impossible. And that gives designers license to make any toy that strikes their fancy.

Novelty is a key competition metric for the industry. The pleasure of gachapon comes not so much from the toys themselves, but the fun of buying them.

Southwest drops unpaid leave vaccine deadline

By David Koenig

Associated Press

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines will let unvaccinated employees keep working past early December instead of putting them on unpaid leave if they apply for an exemption on medical or religious grounds.

Federal contractors — including major U.S. airlines — face a Dec. 8 deadline to require employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Southwest spokeswoman Brandy King said this week that employees must submit proof that they got the shots, or file a request for an exemption from vaccination, by Nov. 24. Employees whose requests have not been processed or approved by Dec. 8

will be allowed to keep working, she said.

The company backtracked from a previous position that employees who had not been vaccinated or received an exemption would be put on unpaid leave.

"While we intend to grant all valid requests for accommodations, in the event a request is not granted, the company will provide adequate time for an employee to become fully vaccinated while continuing to work and adhering to safety protocols," King said.

Southwest notified employees of the deadline delay Friday.

American Airlines said Tuesday that workers who are granted medical or religious exemptions will probably have to wear face masks and undergo regular test-

ing, but the airline is still working on details.

"American will not be placing any team members on unpaid leave as part of the federal vaccine mandate," said American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller.

Southwest and American are based in Texas, where GOP Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered businesses not to require employees or customers to be vaccinated. Both say they will comply with President Joe Biden's federal mandate that contractors require vaccination, which they believe has legal priority over state orders.

United Airlines, the first U.S. carrier to announce a vaccine requirement for workers, has started termination proceedings against about 200 employees who neither got the shots nor asked for an exemption.

UN study: 'Production gap' to get even wider

By Frank Jordans

Associated Press

LONDON — The world needs to cut by more than half its production of coal, oil and gas in the coming decade to maintain a chance of keeping global warming from reaching dangerous levels, according to a U.N.-backed study released Wednesday.

The report published by the U.N. Environment Program found that while governments have made ambitious pledges to curb greenhouse gas emissions, they are still planning to extract double the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than what would be consistent with the 2015 Paris climate accord's goal of keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Even the less ambitious goal of capping global warming at 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times would be overshot, it said.

Climate experts say the world must stop adding to the total amount of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere by 2050, and that can only be done by drastically reducing the burning of fossil fuels as soon as possible, among other measures.

The report, which was released days before a U.N. climate summit begins Oct. 31 in Glasgow, Scotland, found most major oil and gas producers — and even some major coal producers — are planning on increasing production until 2030 or even beyond.

It also concluded that the group of 20 major industrialized and emerging economies have invested more into new fossil fuel projects than into clean energy since the start of 2020.

The disparity between climate goals and fossil fuel extraction plans — termed the "production gap" — will widen until at least 2040, the report found. This would require increasingly steep and extreme measures to meet the Paris emissions goal, UNEP said.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Facebook fined \$69.4M by UK

LONDON — Britain's competition watchdog fined Facebook \$69.4 million Wednesday for violating rules during the U.K. investigation into the social media giant's purchase of Giphy.

The Competition and Markets Authority said Facebook failed to provide required information during the probe. It said it gave the platform multiple warnings and "considered that Facebook's failure to comply was deliberate."

The authority said it was the first time a company had been found to breach a so-called initial enforcement order by consciously refusing to report required information. Such orders are standard practice at the start of an investigation into a completed merger.

Credit Suisse settles loan cases

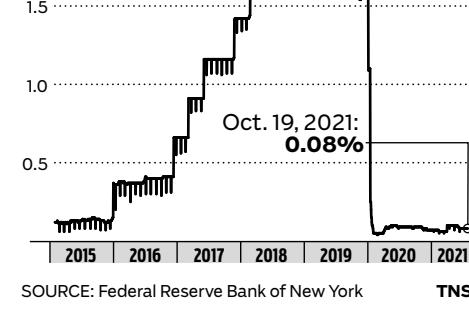
ZURICH — Credit Suisse has announced settlements totaling nearly \$700 million with British and U.S. authorities over lending to Mozambique state-owned companies that Swiss regulators say violated anti-money laundering rules.

The Zurich-based bank, Switzerland's second-largest, said late Tuesday that its U.S. settlement involved some \$275 million. The bank said it would pay a \$200 million penalty under an agreement with Britain and forgive \$200 million in loans to the southern African nation.

The bank's British subsidiaries in 2013 arranged two loans guaranteed by Mozambique's government totaling \$1 billion — equal to nearly 6% of the country's economic output — to two state-owned companies.

Effective federal funds rate

Daily interest rate at which banks lend each other reserve funds



SOURCE: Federal Reserve Bank of New York

TNS

BUSINESS



An alligator swims Feb. 27 near LaPlace, La. Uncontrolled hunting nearly wiped out American alligators before Louisiana barred all hunting of the reptiles in 1962. **GERALD HERBERT/AP**

Louisiana gator farmers may see return quota cut by half

By Janet McConnaughey

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Once-endangered alligators are thriving in the wild, so Louisiana authorities are proposing a deep cut in the percentage that farmers must return to marshes where their eggs were laid.

"Over the past 50 years, alligator nest surveys have increased from an estimate of less than 10,000 in the 1970s and 1980s to well over 60,000 nests in recent years," the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission said in a notice last week. "This increase in nesting has produced a population that can now be sustained with a much lower farm return rate."

The commission is taking comments until Jan. 4 on a proposal to cut that rate from 10% to 5%.

The reptiles don't breed well in captivity, so farmers are allowed to collect eggs from nests as long as they return a percentage to the same area as youngsters big enough to foil predators other than people and much bigger alligators.

Alligator hides are made into luxury leather. The meat is used in sausages; companies also sell roasts, steaks, ribs, nuggets, jerky

and even whole skinned alligators.

About 1.2 million have been returned since alligator farming was approved in 1986, said Jeb Linscombe, head of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' alligator program.

The return percentage was first set at 17%, based on estimates that about 83% die in the egg or before they're 4 feet long. A wild-hatched gator that size would be about 4 years old, but readily available food lets farmed alligators grow much faster.

Raccoons, other predators and floods destroy about one-third of all nests. The hatchlings are about 8.5 inches long and weigh only 2 ounces. That makes them easy prey for bigger gators, wading birds, otters and fish even though mother alligators stay with their babies for about a year.

Uncontrolled hunting nearly wiped out American alligators before Louisiana barred all hunting in 1962. Alligator mississippiensis was among the first species federally listed as endangered in 1967, after Congress passed the precursor to the Endangered Species Act.

"The primary reason the species recovered is ... elimination of the black market," Linscombe said.

Linscombe said.

Louisiana allowed small, highly regulated hunts in 1972 and 1973, opening a statewide season in 1981. Two years later, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ruled that the species had recovered over most of its range, and it was "delisted" entirely in 1987.

Since 1972, more than 1.1 million wild alligators have been killed, over 11 million alligator eggs have been collected, and nearly 7.3 million farm raised alligators have been sold, according to the state management program's 2019-2020 annual report.

Surveyors who flew over coastal marshes during the summer of 2019 estimated the number of alligator nests at a record, nearly 68,000. This year's estimate was a few thousand below that, Linscombe said.

Hunters took 23,828 alligators during the wild season in 2019. It was the second straight increase "but harvest remains depressed due to an oversupply of crocodilian skins worldwide," the report said.

Harvest numbers this year and last have been depressed by Hurricanes Ida, Laura and Delta, and by COVID-19 restrictions, Linscombe said.

Facebook plans to hire 10,000 in Europe to build 'metaverse'

By Kelvin Chan
and Matt O'Brien
Associated Press

LONDON — Facebook said it plans to hire 10,000 workers in the European Union over the next five years to work on a new computing platform that promises to connect people virtually but could raise concerns about privacy and the social platform gaining more control over people's online lives.

The company said in a blog post this week that those high-skilled workers will help build "the metaverse," a futuristic notion for connecting online that uses augmented and virtual reality.

Facebook executives have been touting the metaverse as the next big thing after the mobile internet, though their track record is spotty on predicting future trends. Expectations that CEO Mark Zuckerberg made four years ago of taking virtual vacations with faraway loved ones via a headset or using a smartphone camera to improve an apartment virtually have not materialized so far.

The company also is contending with antitrust crackdowns, the testimony of whistleblowers former employees and concerns about how it handles vaccine-related and political misinformation.

"As we begin the journey of bringing the metaverse to life, the need for highly specialized engineers is one of Facebook's most pressing priorities," according to the blog post from Nick Clegg, vice president of global affairs, and Javier Olivan, vice president of central products.

Facebook's recruiters are targeting Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, the Netherlands and Ireland for the hiring drive.

The metaverse essentially



Facebook plans to hire 10,000 workers in the EU over the next five years to work on a new computing platform. Above, a sign at Facebook HQ in Menlo Park, Calif. **JEFF CHIU/AP 2020**

is a massive virtual world that can be accessed in real time by millions of people using avatars, who can use it to hold virtual meetings or buy virtual land and clothing or other digital assets, often paying with cryptocurrencies.

The social network isn't the only one working on the metaverse, and Facebook acknowledged that no single company will own and operate it. Other players include Fortnite maker Epic Games, which has raised \$1 billion from investors to help with its long-term plans for building the metaverse.

But there are concerns Facebook and a handful of other Silicon Valley giants would end up monopolizing the metaverse and use it to collect and profit from personal data, mirroring the situation now with the internet.

Facebook last month announced a \$50 million investment to fund global research and partnerships with civil rights groups, nonprofits, governments and universities to develop products responsibly for the metaverse. But the company added that it would probably take 10 to 15 years to "fully realize" many of those

MARKET RUNDOWN

Thursday, October 21, 2021

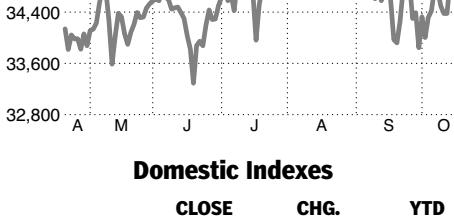
DOW
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10-YR T-BOND
1.63% ...

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Dow Jones industrials
Close: 35,609.34
Change: 152.03 (0.4%)

10 DAYS



Domestic Indexes

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YTD 916.16 +13.91 +5.96%

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Nasdaq Comp. 15,121.68 -7.41 +17.33%

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Wilshire 5000 47,235.52 +175.56 +19.71%

Russell 2000 2,289.77 +13.86 +15.95%

Commodities

FUELS

CLOSE Crude Oil (bbl) 83.87

PREV. 82.96 +72.86%

YTD Natural Gas (mm btu) 5.17 5.09 +103.62%

Unleaded Gas (gal) 2.51 2.48 +76.18%

METALS

CLOSE Gold (oz) 1,784.10

PREV. 1,769.70 -5.76%

YTD Silver (oz) 24.42 23.86 -7.25%

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Global Markets

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London 7,223.10 +5.57 +.08% +11.80%

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Nikkei 29,255.55 +40.03 +.14% +6.60%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)

CLOSE DOW Indus. 35,609.34

CHG. 15,461.68

YTD 916.16

AMC Entertainment A (AMC) 40.88

AT&T Inc (T) 25.91

Adv Micro Dev (AMD) 116.39

American Airlines Gp (AAL) 19.52

Amphenol Corp (APH) 78.35

Apple Inc (AAPL) 149.26

Avangrid Inc (AGR) 52.81

Baker Hughes Co (BKR) 25.35

Bank of America (BAC) 47.09

Barnes Group (B) 42.73

Bit Digital Inc (BTBT) 11.82

Booking Holdings (BKNG) 2384.18

Brist My Sqb (BMY) 58.07

CVS Health Corp (CVS) 86.55

Canaan Inc (CAN) 8.72

Carnival Corp (CCL) 22.44

Carrier Global Corp (CARR) 54.02

Charter Commuc (CHTR) 734.01

Cigna Corp (CI) 214.76

Comcast Corp A (CMCSA) 54.71

ContextLogix Inc (WISH) 6.09

Disney (DIS) 170.55

EMCOR Group Inc (EME) 119.16

Ethan Allen (ETD) 24.23

Eversource Energy (ES) 86.30

First Wave BioPharm (FWBI) 2.95

Ford Motor (F) 16.04

FuelCell Energy (FCEL) 8.13

Gen Dynamics (GD) 208.44

Gen Electric (GE) 106.00

Hartford Fn Sv (HIG) 73.10

Honeywell Intl (HON) 223.64

Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN) 17.10

Infosys Ltd (INFY) 24.13

Kaman (KAMN) 37.70

Keycorp (KEY) 23.72

Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC) 75.76

MGM Resorts Intl (MGM) 47.07

Maelian Health Inc (MGLN) 94.79

Meten Holding Group (METX) .32

MetLife Inc (MET) 66.20

Micron Tech (MU) 68.27

NextPlay Technol Inc (NXTP) 2.46

Novartis AG (NVS) 84.47

Novavax Inc (NVAX) 136.86

OTIS Worldwide Corp (OTIS) 85.46

Palantir Technol (PLTR) 24.22

PayPal Holdings (PYPL) 258.36

Peabody Energy Corp

No one really wants to pay for 'Build Back Better'



Jonah Goldberg

Here is a very basic fact: People tend to like getting stuff for free. Ask most people, "Do you want a fancy new Mercedes?" and they'll likely respond, "Yes." But ask them to pay full price for it and demand drops dramatically.

Hold that thought.

Sen. Bernie Sanders is very upset that the Democrats' "Build Back Better" package is stalled. "Poll after poll shows overwhelming support for the \$3.5 trillion Build Back Better legislation," Sanders said in a statement, "and the need to lower prescription drug costs, expand Medicare to cover dental, hearing and vision..." and so on.

But as National Review's Charles Cooke wrote, Sanders' statement refutes itself. In the next paragraph, the Vermont senator says, "polling also shows that despite President Biden having introduced this proposal five months ago, a majority of Americans have very little knowledge as to what is in this bill." Sanders adds, "It is hard to ask people to have faith in their government when they have little understanding of what their government is trying to do."

As Cooke rightly notes, it's odd to simultaneously claim a bill is overwhelmingly popular and that a majority of Americans have no idea what's in it.

But Sanders thinks that's proof the mainstream media is failing to educate the public. Individual elements of the bill poll well, hence the claim it's popular. "The foundations of American democracy are threatened not only by extremism, but by ignorance and lack of knowledge," he



U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., seen talking to reporters Oct. 6, is very upset that the Democrats' "Build Back Better" package is stalled. AL DRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

claims.

I'm all for dispelling ignorance, but Sanders is perpetuating a myth that harms democracy, too — specifically, that massive social welfare spending is wildly popular with American voters.

In 2016, Vox polled Sanders' proposals for nationalized health care and free college tuition. They didn't poll the general public; they polled Sanders' own supporters. Not surprisingly, respondents favored single-payer health care. But when asked if they'd be willing to personally pay more for it, support dropped. Two-thirds said the most they'd be willing to pay in additional taxes for "free" health care was \$1,000 per year, about \$83 per month. This number includes the 8% of Sanders supporters who said they wouldn't be willing to pay

anything for universal health care.

Cheap socialists aren't the story here. Americans in general don't want to pay much of anything — out of their own pocket — for the stuff progressives constantly say America is demanding.

A Washington Post poll in 2019 found that 68% of Americans supported taxing "wealthy families" to pay for fighting climate change. But when asked if they would agree to pay an extra \$2 a month on their electric bills, support fell to less than 47%. That same year, an AP-NORC poll asked people if they'd be willing to spend \$10 more a month in their energy bills to fight climate change. Some 68% of respondents said nope.

This is where the truly dangerous ignorance begins. For years now, voters have

been told that the rich as well as greedy corporations are an untapped renewable resource that can pay for everything and anything. That's false. You could confiscate all of the wealth of the top 1% and it wouldn't come close to covering the bill for, say, the Green New Deal or Medicare for All. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez may turn heads by scrawling "tax the rich" on her ballgowns, but the truth is we already do — at a remarkably progressive rate.

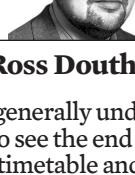
There's no room here to explain why I think Biden's promise that his \$3.5 trillion package won't be "free" for everyone making less than \$400,000 per year. So, let's just pretend it's true. In the market, popularity is determined by what people are willing to pay with their own money. However, in progressive politics — and in much of the mainstream media — popularity is determined by what people are willing to have other people pay for. Defining public support this way is misleading.

But even if the rich could pay for it all, democracy isn't enriched when voters think one very small class of people is greedily standing in the way of economic salvation.

When populist politicians promise it would be easy to deliver that salvation but then fail to do it, voters feel betrayed and the politicians shift blame to sinister and corrupt forces (the "one percent," special interests, evil corporations) or allegedly outdated obstacles to progress like the filibuster or even the Constitution itself. That sense of betrayal doesn't foster healthy politics. It leads to "extreme" demagogues promising to deliver what they claim the corrupt establishment could not.

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How will blue states live with COVID?



Ross Douthat

By now, it's generally understood that we are not going to see the end of COVID-19 on any simple timetable and that what we should expect instead is a world where the disease becomes something that we live with — as an endemic illness transformed by the combination of vaccinations, boosters and immunity from prior infection into a tolerable risk.

The conversation about how best to encourage vaccination at the margins is all about how we can hurry up and finally reach that stage. But for areas with high vaccination rates, especially a crucial question is what happens when we get there.

What does adapting permanently to endemic COVID-19 look like in places — especially blue states, and especially their most liberal enclaves — that have relied on stringent measures whenever cases surge?

I wrote about this subject last February, before the rise of the delta variant in the United States, when it seemed reasonable to expect the COVID-19 emergency to give way to an attempted normalcy by summer. And even with delta, some of the normalization that I hoped for has happened. Most blue-state schools, thankfully, are back in-person this fall. For the most part, the summer wave didn't close churches or beaches or cancel baseball games. In New Haven, Connecticut, where I live, zealous masking returned after a brief early-summer idyll — but driving around New England over the past few months, I've found mask wearing to be pretty casual and voluntary outside the haunts of the urban haute bourgeoisie.

This gradual relaxation suggests an optimistic path to blue-state normalization, in which any winter wave turns out to be relatively mild, vaccinations are authorized for younger children and by the spring, at the latest, all mask requirements are lifted, letting kids see their classmates' faces again and allowing adults to go to museums or ride trains or go shopping without having to breathe for hours into fabric. The endpoint of this path is an equilibrium with more voluntary masking every winter (against the flu as well as COVID-19), maybe some mask requirements for holiday-season travelers, but none of the permanent-emergency measures that libertarians have feared from the start.

But I can also imagine other scenarios. Last week the virologist and prolific pandemic-era tweeter Trevor Bedford speculated that the United States could see 40,000 to 100,000 deaths annually from endemic COVID-19. That range is vastly lower than the pandemic death rate, but it's moderately higher than estimates for the seasonal flu and probably high enough to keep case and fatality numbers in the headlines in 2022 and beyond.

As we saw after Sept. 11, certain forms of security theater, once established, become extremely difficult to dislodge as long as there is still any arguable threat. So as long as COVID-19 stays in the news, it's not hard to envision masking requirements for airplanes and trains persisting far into the future, much as we still try to foil al-Qaida



Parents accompany their children outside PS 179 elementary school in the Brooklyn borough of New York. MARK LENNIHAN/AP

by taking off our shoes for airport security lines.

It's also possible to imagine a future in which the weird emergent norm of "masks for the help but not the VIPs" — visible everywhere from the Met Gala to political fundraisers to posh hotels — becomes an expected feature of life among the blue-state upper class (as well as a potent symbol for its critics).

Then there are blue-state elementary schools, where some of the constituencies that support mask requirements may not be assuaged even after vaccines are available for younger kids. At that point, according to both polls and personal experience, there will still be lots of vaccine hesitancy among even liberal parents — and you could imagine a coalition of more COVID-19-fearing parents and teachers unions demanding masking requirements until a school hits a vaccination threshold that remains perpetually out of reach.

Already on certain college campuses you can see a version of this permanent-seeming abnormality. Even with vaccine requirements for faculty and students, some schools have tried to layer on miniature medical surveillance states,

with constant testing and exacting masking rules. Students and their parents have successfully pushed back against some of the creepier measures — a wearable "bio button" to monitor heart rates and other health indicators at one university, a location-tracking app at another. But the spirit of bio-surveillance fits in nicely with the larger trend toward a kind of supervisory progressivism in campus life, with the attempted bureaucratic regulation of speech and sex, the tech-enabled monitoring of on-campus movement and communication. And if COVID-19 is endemic, if the risk of outbreaks persists indefinitely, it's not clear that these biopolitical experiments will automatically fade away.

Especially since the culture of deep-blue America is caught up in the same toxic feedback loops of polarization as deep-red America. If certain forms of Republican insouciance about COVID-19 are forged in the fires of cultural resentment, in which you reject Fauci's micromanagement by ditching masks and refusing the vaccine, certain forms of liberal overregulation seem forged in fear of red American contagion — in which we just have to mask our kids indefinitely, even though many

other developed countries aren't doing it, because we need to set an example of seriousness to shame all those red-state anti-maskers.

Endemic COVID-19 ensures that this dynamic will never simply vanish. The red-blue vaccination gap isn't the only vaccination gap that matters, but it's real enough. Mississippi will probably always have lower vaccination rates than Connecticut, and it's possible to imagine an endemic future where there are more COVID-19 cases most summers in the Republican-voting air-conditioning belt than there are in New England in the winter.

So deep-blue America will have to decide, in a world that's postpandemic but not post-COVID-19, whether it wants to become the safety-above-all caricature that deep-red America has made of it — or if it can settle instead on masking a little more every December and January, a reasonable adaptation to the coronavirus experience, while otherwise leaving the age of emergency behind.

Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.

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BRISTOL

Ronald E. Blank

DURHAM

Rachel Pietrycha

EAST HARTFORD

Lina Bovi

EAST WINDSOR

Raymond D. Christensen

Grace L. Montivirdi

ENFIELD

Sharon Jean*

ESSEX

Robert P. Donlin

FARMINGTON

Dr. Janice Laplante

Alice Oliveira

GLASTONBURY

Joan Jensen

HARTFORD

Mary E. Filhaber

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Shawn Lang

Wayne L. Radney

Erica D. Young

HIGGANUM

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KENSINGTON

Margaret Oliver

MANCHESTER

Lina Bovi

Patricia J. Brown

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Margaret Oliver

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Alice Oliveira

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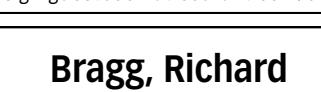
OUT OF STATE

Dr. Janice Laplante

Mishawaka, IN

OBITUARIES**Blank, Ronald E.**

Ronald E. Blank, 66, of Bristol, widower of Jacqueline (Carbone) Blank, died on Tuesday (October 19, 2021) at New Britain General Hospital. Ron was born in Southington on April 4, 1955 and was son of Emil Blank of Niantic and the late Pauline (Petroli) Blank. He was raised and lived in Southington where he graduated from Southington High School before going to college at Southern Connecticut State University. He formerly lived in Middletown where he served local parishes as a Deacon with the Diocese of Norwich until moving to Bristol in 2013. In addition to his father, Ron is survived by a son and daughter-in-law: Michael and Lorena Blank of El Paso, TX; a brother: Robert Blank of Newington; and a nephew: Robert James Blank of Newington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday (October 23, 2021) at 10 AM at St. Ann Church, 215 West St., Bristol. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery, Bristol. Relatives and friends may call at Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Ave., Bristol, on Friday between 5 and 7 PM. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation "NPCF", PO Box 1848, Longmont, CO 80502. Please visit Ron's memorial website at www.FunkFuneralHome.com.



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www.FunkFuneralHome.comPlease sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Bragg, Richard**

Richard Bragg, 77, of West Hartford, passed away peacefully on October 19, 2021. Richard was born east of the river, but made West Hartford his home after marrying the love of his life, Ann (Joseph) Bragg in 1966. Richard was a true artist, often seeing beauty where others could not even imagine. He was generous with his time, and his talents. He was predeceased by his loving mother, Barbara (Hyatt) Bragg, and his wife Ann. He is survived by his cherished daughter, Ro-anna (Bragg) Boudreau, his son-in-law, Kenneth Boudreau, and his two grandsons, Matthew and Nathan Boudreau, whom he adored. He also leaves behind many close friends who were more like family. Anyone lucky enough to be a recipient of his talents should themselves blessed. A private service and burial were held in West Hartford. So that others may enjoy some beauty of their own, in lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Grace Episcopal Church, 55 New Park Ave. Hartford, CT 06106, and reference the Ann Bragg and Barbara Hyatt Bragg flower fund.



906 FARMINGTON AVENUE

WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Brown, Patricia J. (Riordan)**

Patricia Jane (Riordan) Brown, 74, wife of the late Deacon William Brown, passed away peacefully after a short illness on October 19, 2021 in Springfield, MA. She was born in Hartford, daughter of the late Edward G and Kathryn (Slattery) Riordan and lived in Manchester, CT most of her life, moving to Springfield three years ago. Pat graduated from Central Connecticut State University and received her Master's Degree from the University of Connecticut. Following her marriage, Pat taught in Simsbury, CT and for many years at East Catholic High School.

Pat leaves one son, William E. Brown of Los Angeles, CA and one granddaughter, Teresa Holmes of Dover, NH and one sister Joanne Collins and her husband John of Belchertown, MA. She also leaves brothers in law Joe Brown and his wife Cathy, Tony Brown and his wife Debbie; sisters in law Mary Ann Miller and her husband Alden, Nancy Arduino and her husband Kenneth, Susan Egan and her husband Robert, Kathleen Smith and her husband Richard and numerous nieces and nephews. Patricia will be remembered at a Memorial Mass at St. James Church in Manchester, CT on Friday, 10/22/21 at 12:00. Friends and family may call at Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Avenue, Glastonbury at 10:30 to 11:30 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to East Catholic High School, 115 New State Road, Manchester, CT 06040, the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Drive, Wallingford, CT 06492 or the Town of Manchester Memorial Tree Planting Program c/o Customer Service Center 41 Center St., PO Box 191 Manchester, CT 06045-0191. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. To extend condolences, please visit Farleysullivan.com.

Farley-Sullivan

Funeral Home

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**OBITUARIES****Benoit, Mary L.**

Mary L. Benoit, 101, of West Hartford died peacefully at home surrounded by her family. Mary was born in Saugus, MA on November 16, 1919, the daughter of John and Sarah Beaulieu. She was predeceased by her husband, Armand Benoit, brothers John, Robert, David, William Beaulieu and sisters Rita and Helen along with her son-in-law

Joseph Prete. Her greatest treasure was her family. She took pleasure in bringing her family together for the "big meal" on Sunday afternoons. Her life was devoted to the care of her six brothers and sisters growing up. She then married the love of her life, Armand Benoit of Salem Massachusetts and raised their seven children in West Hartford. She was a long standing member of St. Brigid Church, Ladies Guild, and an avid volunteer for both church and civic activities. Mary was a long-standing supporter of the Salvation Army and other charitable groups, always living her life paying it forward. She was employed by the Town of West Hartford as a food service manager at Wolcott Elementary School until her retirement in 1982. She is survived by her seven loving children: Armand and his wife Karen Benoit of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, John and his wife Cheryl Benoit of Bristol, CT, Thomas and his wife Mary Jane Benoit of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, William and his wife Deborah Benoit of Louisville, KY, her daughters Reita and her husband Michael Turro of Millersville, MD, Corinne Prete of West Hartford, CT and Sarah and her husband Keith Parsons of West Hartford, CT. Mary will be forever missed by her nineteen grandchildren: Jonathan Benoit, Amy Benoit, Katerie Cariello, John Michael Benoit, Mary Benoit, Brian Benoit, Jason Benoit, Mary Taylor Mulkey, Loree Cullum, William Benoit, Ceighton Benoit, Christopher Turro, Jessica Turro, Annie Carmen, John Prete, Elizabeth Soares, Molly Guyer, Emily Parsons, and Keith Mathew Parsons. Mary also had twenty four great grandchildren whom she loved adoringly. Visitation will be at Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Avenue in West Hartford, Saturday October 23, 2021 from 8:30 - 9:30 AM. Following visitation a Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:00 AM at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 872 Farmington Avenue in West Hartford. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Salvation Army, 855 Asylum Ave, Hartford, CT 06105. Online condolences may be made to www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com

Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Bovi, Lina "Nana" (DeCesare)**

Lina "Nana" (DeCesare) Bovi, 90, of East Hartford, loving wife of 57 years of the late Anthony "Tony" Bovi, peacefully went to be with our Lord on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 with her beloved family by her side at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born in Roseto Valfortore, province of Foggia, Italy on August 13, 1931, a daughter of the late Ernesto and Concetta DeCesare, she

had been a resident of East Hartford for the past 61 years. A devout catholic, Lina was a communicant of St. Rose Church, East Hartford and faithfully watched the daily mass on television and recited the rosary every day. Prior to her retirement, she enjoyed her job working in customer service for many years at Burlington Coat Factory, East Hartford. Lina loved knitting and crocheting and would make slippers for her daughters and other family members to wear. She also liked playing bingo at the East Hartford Senior Center and watching the movie "The Notebook" weekly. Known for her spaghetti sauce, Lina was a phenomenal cook who loved making Sunday dinners and holiday meals for her family and friends to enjoy. Most of all, Lina was a proud and devoted wife, mother, and grandmother who cherished every moment with her entire family. Lina is survived by her two sons, Joseph Bovi and his wife Donna of Needham, MA, Ernest Bovi and his wife Dianna of East Hartford with whom she made her home; three daughters, Marisa Adams and her husband James of Manchester, Lora Frascarelli and her husband Jack of South Windsor, and Yolanda Pruneau and her husband Mark of South Windsor. She was the proud Nana to her eleven special grandchildren, Matthew Adams and his wife Victoria, Ryan Adams and his wife Kelly, Kayla Metheny and her husband Paul, Nick Bovi, Maddie Bovi, Leah Frascarelli, Anthony Frascarelli, Raeann Woytowicz and her husband Alex, Danica Pruneau, Skyler Pruneau, Nicolette Pruneau; and four adored great-grandchildren, Koby Woytowicz, Grace Adams, Charlie Adams, and Kieran Adams. She also leaves a brother, Luigi "Gino" DeCesare of Silver Spring Park, MD; two sisters, Rosetta Romano of Torino, Italy, Pina Petruccelli of Bethlehem, PA; many nieces, nephews, neighbors, and dear friends.

Funeral service will be Saturday (October 23, 2021) with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 10 am at St. Rose Church of North American Martyrs Parish, 33 Church Street, East Hartford. Private burial will be at the convenience of the family. The family asks that everyone please go directly to the church on Saturday morning. Lina's family will receive relatives and friends on Friday (October 22, 2021) from 4 - 6 pm at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Due to the town of East Hartford mask mandate, everyone is asked to please wear a mask and adhere to all of the regulations of the church, town, and funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Lina's name may be made to the Office of Radio and Television-Archdiocese of Hartford, 15 Peach Orchard Road, Prospect, CT 06712-1052. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.

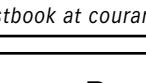
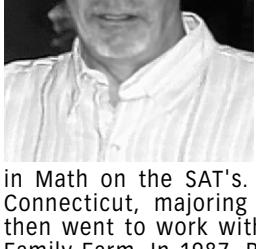
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**Butler, Lester C.**

Lester C. Butler, 84, of Newington, passed away at home on Sunday, October 17, 2021, with his family at his side. Born on July 17, 1937, in Hartford, Lester was the son of the late Lester James and Helen (Bond) Butler and the beloved husband of 59 years to Lorelei (Adinolfi) Butler. He served his country in the US Army Reserves, and prior to his retirement, he was employed as an Ad Services Manager with the Hartford Courant for 42 years. He was an auxiliary member of the Newington Police and Fire Departments and was a communicant of the Church of the Holy Spirit. Besides his wife Lorelei, he is survived by his son, Arnold Butler of Lake City, FL, his daughters, Lorelei Amuso and her husband Tristan of Newington, and Lorraine Cullen and her husband Christopher of Berlin; his grandchildren, Ashley, A.J., Aaron, Mason and Wesley Butler, Kaitlyn and Anthony Amuso, and Kiley and Stephen Cullen, three great grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and their extended families. Lester also leaves his close friends, Nancy and Frank Strake of Newington, Bob and Lynette Grande of Bloomfield and his special friend, Bobby, Jr. Besides his parents, Lester was predeceased by his sisters, Joyce Perkins, and Dolores Butler and his nephew, James Perkins. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 183 Church Street, Newington. Inurnment will follow the Mass at West Meadow Cemetery. There are no calling hours. For the safety of everyone attending the services, the family and funeral home staff will be wearing masks and we require those attending to do so. The Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, Newington is assisting the family. To leave an online expression of sympathy for the family, please visit: www.duksa.net.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries**Christensen, Raymond D.**

Raymond D. Christensen, 72, of East Windsor, beloved husband for 37 years of Karen M. (Lynch) Christensen, passed away peacefully on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Ray was born in Hartford, son of the late Daniel and Florence (Samartino) Christensen, and graduated from East Windsor High School, where he received a perfect score

OBITUARIES

Forgey, Janet M.

Janet M. Forgey, a resident of Manchester for the past 48 years, passed away at Manchester Memorial hospital after a short illness on the morning of Saturday, October 16, 2021. Janet was born June 21, 1937, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the daughter of Wallace and Vida (Lingley) Forgey. She attended schools in Melrose, Massachusetts, and went on to graduate from Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Upon graduation, she was employed by Aetna Life Insurance Company. She spent her entire career working in the Group Division, where she met many lifelong friends. Janet was predeceased by her parents and a sister, Beverly Hamrah. She is survived by her niece, Sharon Hamrah, of East Hartford and her nephew, Scott Hamrah, of Brooklyn, New York. Janet had a wonderful sense of humor and was a caring and generous person. She was very friendly and outgoing and was happy to chat with complete strangers as well as with people she knew. She loved her cats and her many dog friends and was a frequent donor to various animal welfare organizations. She loved vacationing by the water, first with her parents and later with friends. Her favorite places include lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire, Plum Island in Massachusetts, and Connecticut lakes and beaches. She also enjoyed ski vacations with friends.

After retirement from Aetna, she enjoyed working numerous hours as a volunteer at Manchester Memorial Hospital, and at the Little Theatre in Manchester, where she was a dedicated behind the scenes worker. She discovered a new talent working on sets and decorations as well as making wooden advertising signs. She was a fan of the theater and an annual subscriber to the performances at the Bushnell and at the Goodspeed Opera House.

In lieu of flowers, and in Janet's memory, please be kind and do a good deed for someone. Calling hours will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, at the Holmes-Watkins Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, CT. A Memorial service will follow. There will be no burial. To leave a memory or message of condolence, please visit www.holmeswatkins.com

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Filhaber, Mary Ellen

On the morning of October 16, 2021, God asked Mary Ellen Filhaber to be with him. She died in her home surrounded by her children and her husband. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut on July 28, 1942, to Maurice J and Muriel F Croteau. She was educated at Canton High School and the University of Connecticut.

She worked as a cost accountant and later as a manager of the export department at the InterRoyal Corporation in Plainfield, Connecticut. She married Ilmar J Filhaber on November 4, 1961, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Besides her husband, surviving are four children: Karen (Peter) Berris, John (Amanda Morris) Filhaber, Lisa (Doreen) Coe, and Maureen (Daniel) Akers; ten fine grandchildren, sisters Linda Croteau Boutell and Maureen Croteau, brother-in-law Wayne Worcester, her two best friends, Jeannie Kaplan and Kathy Lewandowski of and Nicki Stalter, her care giver.

No funeral or visiting hours will be observed. Instead, there will be a celebration of her life within the next few months.

In lieu of flowers we ask that donations be made either to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, 311 Curtis Street, Jamestown, NY 14701 or the Lakewood Fire Dept. Ambulance service, 37 Packard Ave, Lakewood, NY 14750.

You may leave words of condolence at www.lindfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Francis, Annie K. (Haynes)

Annie Kate Francis, 91, of Hartford, beloved wife for 50 years of the late Stanley Roy Francis, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at her home with her son by her side. Born in Ellaville, GA on December 22, 1929, she was raised in Georgia and moved to Hartford with her uncle in the 1940's. Annie attended Hartford Public High School and later worked as a seamstress for Wynshaw's in Hartford. Annie spent most of her career in the payroll department at Cigna Insurance Company where she worked for over 30 years until her retirement in 1992. She was a member of the former Horace Bushnell Congregational Church in Hartford. She leaves a son, Mark Terrence Francis and his significant other, Colleen Nixon of Bloomfield; a daughter, Rachel Mayo of Hagerstown, MD; five granddaughters, Morgan Briana Copeland and her husband Shannon of Atlanta, GA, Riyan Simone Francis of Bloomfield, LeAnne Fostervold and her husband Ryan, and Jamie Lawson all of Hagerstown, MD, and Leslie King and her husband Aris of Washington, DC; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by her mother, Fannie Martin; a daughter, Kathleen Armstrong; a granddaughter, Christina Ghansiyiye Dzenyuy; a brother, John Haynes; and a sister, Mary Williams. Her family will receive friends on Sunday, October 24, 4-6 p.m., at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. A graveside service will be held on Monday, October 25, 11 a.m., at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Memorial donations may be made to American Cancer Society, PO Box 280285, East Hartford, CT 06128. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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**Share memories, express
condolences, and celebrate
life in the obituary section
on courant.com.**

**Gillespie, N. Brian**

N. Brian Gillespie, 75, of Windsor, beloved husband for 51 years of Dianne (Steben) Gillespie, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at the West Haven VA Hospital. Born in Hartford on February 17, 1946, son of the late Neil W. and Viola (LaBell) Gillespie, he was raised in Windsor and was a graduate of Windsor High School, Class of 1964. After graduation, Brian enlisted in the US Air Force and served during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and was honorably discharged in 1968. After his military service, he took a position at Combustion Engineering in Windsor and he returned to school at night at the University of Hartford where he studied business and later graduated with a Bachelor's Degree. Brian spent most of his career with R.K. Griffith & Associates in Putnam where he worked as a sales engineer in the power industry for over 20 years. Most recently, he owned and operated his own business, NBG Power which he ran until his retirement in 2017. Brian was a fixture in Windsor Youth Baseball for over 30 years. He served as President of the Windsor Youth Baseball Association and General Manager of the Windsor American Legion and Junior Legion Baseball teams for 10 years. Brian also coached Windsor Little League Baseball, Windsor Youth All-Stars, Youth Soccer, Youth Baseball and Softball, Travel Soccer, and Girls and Boys Basketball. In 1999, he founded the Windsor Youth Baseball Association to oversee Windsor American Legion Baseball, Windsor Jaycee-Courant Baseball, and the Windsor Senior League. Proud of his military service, Brian was an active member of Gray-Dickinson Post #59, American Legion in Windsor and the Windsor V.F.W. Post #4740 where he was presently serving as the Quartermaster and Adjutant. He was a member of the Exchange Club of Windsor where he enjoyed volunteering on many service projects over the years. Brian loved his community of Windsor where he lived his whole life. He mentored countless children over the years while he coached over 60 youth sports teams. Most of all, Brian will be remembered as the consummate family man whose life revolved around his wife, his children, and his grandchildren. Besides his loving wife, he leaves to cherish his memories, his daughter, Kelly Gillespie Nesbitt and her husband Dave of Windsor; his son, Brett Gillespie of Windsor Locks; three grandchildren, Jalen, Amaya, and Jace Nesbitt all of Windsor; a sister, Jeanne Beltrandi of Enfield; his brother-in-law, Peter Suty of Windsor; his best friend, Jeff Echelson of Windsor; and many nieces, nephews, Godchildren, and close friends. He was predeceased by a sister, Sandra Suty. His family will receive friends on Tuesday, October 26, 5-8 p.m., at The Lodge Community Chapel, 130 Deerfield Rd., Windsor. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Celebrated on Wednesday, October 27, 10 a.m., at St. Damien of Molokai Parish - St. Gabriel Church, 379 Broad St., Windsor. Burial with Military Honors will follow in Windsor Veterans Memorial Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Way, Memphis, TN 38105, or to the V.F.W. Post #4740, 276 Broad St., Windsor, CT 06095. Carmon Windsor Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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LaPlante, Dr. Janice

SERVICE UPDATE

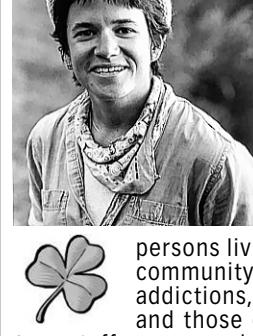
All are cordially welcome to Dr. Janice LaPlante's Memorial Mass. Dr. Janice LaPlante's Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday October 23rd at St. Mary's Church (Newington), 626 Willard Ave., Newington, CT 06111 at 11:30 AM.

Jensen, Joan (Bresnahan)

Joan (Bresnahan) Jensen, 93, of East Hartford passed away at Hartford Hospital on Saturday, October 16, 2021. She was the widow of Herbert Hans Jensen. Born in Exeter, NH, Joan was the daughter of the late George and Henrietta (Miller) Bresnahan. She loved gardening and was a talented seamstress. Surviving are her son Stephen Jensen of E. Hartford, her two daughters Debra Jensen of E. Hartford, Kathleen Perugini and her husband Anthony of Cheshire, four grandchildren, one great grandchild and several nieces and nephews. Joan was predeceased by her sisters Maureen Brassard and Sheila Allen and brother Harold Bresnahan. Funeral services and burial will be private. Friends may call on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury. For online condolences, please visit www.mulryanfh.com

MULRYAN
FUNERAL HOME

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Lang, Shawn

Shawn Lang, 65, of Hartford, CT, a proud mother, passionate advocate for justice, and lover of friends, music and Boston sports teams, passed away unexpectedly on October 17, 2021. She was born in Norfolk, MA, on February 5, 1956, the daughter of Herbie and Pat (Cashen) Lang.

Shawn spent her entire career as an advocate for persons living with HIV and AIDS, the LGBTQ community, as well as those with opioid addictions, survivors of domestic violence, and those experiencing housing insecurity. As a staff person and volunteer, she worked tirelessly for programs, policies, and state and federal legislation that provided services and protections for persons in need.

For the past thirty years Shawn worked as the Deputy Director of Advancing CT Together (ACT). She was a board member of the National AIDS Housing Coalition and the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS at Yale University. She sat on the CT Alcohol and Drug Policy Council and founded the Statewide Opiate Overdose Prevention Workgroup. In 2017, Shawn was honored at the White House as a Champion of Change for Advancing Prevention, Treatment and Recovery. When she wasn't advocating in the halls of the State Capitol and Congress, Shawn could be found socializing with family and her many friends, playing guitar on First Friday music nights, cheering for her Red Sox, Celtics, Patriots and Huskies, and vacationing in P-Town. But her dedication to the causes of justice and equality was only exceeded by her boundless dedication to her son, Corbett Lang, of Hartford, CT. He brought her the greatest of love, joy and pride, and Shawn treasured their time together.

In addition to her son, Corbett, of Hartford, CT, Shawn is survived by her sisters Heidi Cronin and her husband Mike of Norfolk MA, Tricia Barry and her husband Charles of Wrentham, MA, Gretchen Lang of Margate, FL, and her brother Tiger Lang of Bennington, VT, and many nieces and nephews.

Shawn's family is deeply and forever grateful to Shawn's many friends, co-workers and fellow advocates who provided her with love and support during her remarkable and impactful life, and who shared her commitment to justice and equality. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at the Pond House, 1555 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT. Calling hours are from 5:30 to 9:00pm, including a ceremony from 6:30 to 7:15pm. Masks are required per town regulations and the wishes of Shawn who dedicated her life's work to public health. Vaccinations encouraged. Shawn Lang-approved attire welcome - i.e. jeans, khaki shorts, political t-shirts. Donations in memory of Shawn and her work may be sent to Advancing CT Together at 110 Bartholomew Avenue, Suite 3050, Hartford, CT 06106 (info@act-ct.org).

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

McCalop, Troy L

Troy L. McCalop Sr., 50 of Windsor, CT passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. His family will receive friends on Saturday, October 23, 2021, 4-5 p.m., with a Celebration of Troy's life at 5pm. at Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor. For the complete obituary, visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Oliveira, Alice (Ramos)

Alice (Ramos) Oliveira, 93, of Wethersfield, beloved wife of 63 years of Orlando R. Oliveira (b. February 8, 1924 d. October 12, 2012), died on Wednesday, October 20, 2021. She was born in Lisbon, Portugal before immigrating to the U.S. in 1968 and had lived in Wethersfield since 1986. She worked evenings at Connecticut Mutual

come care for her grandchildren, whom she raised and taught to speak Portuguese. She enjoyed knitting, embroidery and loved being with her family making wonderful memories with her children, grandchildren and especially her great-grandchildren. We will treasure those memories always. She is survived by a son Jose A. Oliveira and his wife Clotilde of Farmington; two daughters, Odete Patrocínio of Wethersfield, and Cecilia Gonçalves of Wethersfield and four grandchildren, Amy and (Niko) Perdikakis, Wendy and (Jason) McCreary, Joe Gonçalves, and Cristina and (Timothy) Johnson; seven great-grandchildren, Cristina, Alyssa, Wesley, Reese, Troy, Juliet and Audrina. The family would like to thank the entire staff of 3North at the Hebrew Center in West Hartford for all their loving, compassionate care. A Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, (October 22), 10:00 am at Our Lady of Fatima Church, Hartford. Burial will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. There are no calling hours. Online condolences may be made at www.SheehanHilbornBreen.com

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to share memories of loved ones.**

Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME

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OBITUARIES

Montivirdi, Grace L.

Grace L. Montivirdi, 97, of East Windsor, beloved wife of the late Michael Montivirdi, passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, October 17, 2021. She was born June 17, 1924 in Hartford, CT, daughter of the late Salvatore and Elvira (Salerno) Florida. She is survived by her son, Victor Montivirdi and his wife Marie and her daughter, Patricia Krupinski and her husband Edward, her 5 grandchildren: David, James and his wife Nancy, Krysta and her partner Larry, Michael and Anthony, her 8 great grandchildren: Cody, Brianna and her partner Kyle, Jack, Benjamin, Liam, Brandon, Ava and Aidan, and 3 great great grandchildren: Alexander, Cameron and Aurora. She is also survived by her sisters Virginia Farinella, Connie Marinelli and Millie Ruben as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her siblings Joseph and Louis Florida, Lucille Russo, Mary Pelletier, and Lorraine Verceski. The family would like to give a special thanks to Meg for her love and devotion and the Hospice nurses and aides for their loving care. Relatives and friends may join the family on Monday, October 25, 2021 from 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at the Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home, 37 Gardner St., East Windsor, CT 06088. A funeral home service will follow at 12:30 pm with burial at St. Catherine Cemetery, East Windsor. Donations may be made to the VNA Hospice in Vernon or the Alzheimer's Association. For online condolences, please visit [pietrasfuneralhome.com](http://www.piетrasfuneralhome.com)

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Morris, Robert J.

Robert J. Morris, 52 formerly of West Hartford, CT passed away suddenly on September 6, 2021. The son of Jack and Joan Morris, Rob was born January 14, 1969 and grew up in West Hartford, CT where he graduated from Hall High School before moving to Pahrump, NV. Rob leaves behind his sister-in-law Kathy Morris, his nephew Michael Morris, niece Ashley Flaherty, as well as cousins who will remember him for his love of family, friends and the Dallas Cowboys. Although Rob's life was cut short, his humor and the impact he made through acts of kindness for those in need is everlasting. Rob is now reunited with his parents, brothers Michael and John Morris, and sisters Patty Bove and Mary Morris. A graveside service will be held at 10am on Saturday, October 23rd at Fairview Cemetery, Section 4, 200 Whitman Avenue, West Hartford, CT, followed by a celebration of life.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Oliver, Margaret

Margaret (Buchas) Oliver, 71, of Kensington, wife of Donald Oliver, passed away surrounded by her family at home after a courageous three and a half year battle with cancer. A New Britain native and longtime resident, Margaret is a graduate of New Britain High School, Class of 1968, and moved to Kensington 21 years ago. She was employed as an Office Manager and Legal Secretary until her retirement in 2014.

Besides her husband Donald, she is survived by a son, Daniel Smith and his wife Julie of Kensington; a step son Steven Oliver of New Britain; a step daughter, Kate Pina and her husband Donovan of Texas; two brothers, Michael Buchas and his wife Anne of Wallingford; and Charlie Buchas and his wife Lindley of Tennessee; three sisters, Janet Buchas of Florida; Patty Papagna of Ohio and Cathy Yost and her husband John of South Carolina; and her adored granddaughters, Daphne and Fiona. Besides her parents Charles and Nellie (Ewanoski) Buchas, she was predeceased by her son David Smith.

Calling hours will be held Saturday 3 to 6 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain with a funeral service during that time. Burial will be private in Maple Cemetery, Berlin. Margaret's family wishes to thank the hospice nurses and aides from Hartford Healthcare at Home as well as the entire staff of the Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute in New Britain for all of their care and compassion over the past few years. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Margaret Oliver may be made to American Cancer Society c/o Ovarian Cancer Research PO Box 22718 Oklahoma City, OK 73123. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

CARLSON
FUNERAL HOME

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Pietrycha, Rachel

Rachel (Lapointe) Pietrycha, 87, of Rocky Hill and formerly Newington, beloved wife for 49 years of the late Frank J. Pietrycha, passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 17, 2021. Born in Hardwick, Vermont on June 21, 1934, she was the daughter of the late Eudore and Margaret (Briere) Lapointe. Rachel worked at Travelers Insurance Company for many years. A loving mother and grandmother, Rachel will be forever missed by her two children, Richard Pietrycha and wife Gail of Newington and Carol Jones and husband Peter of Durham and her five adored grandchildren. She is also survived by two sisters, Janice Pierce and Lisa Pierce, both of Leicester, NC and one brother, Ronald Lapointe of Winter Haven, FL, as well as several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Thomas Lapointe and her sister, Marilyn Raynor. Special thanks to Rachel's caregivers, Linda and Violet. Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family. The D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, Wethersfield has been entrusted with the arrangements. Donations in Rachel's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To share a memory of Rachel with her family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.

D'ESOPO
FUNERAL CHAPEL

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Radney, Wayne Luther

Wayne Luther Radney, 60, of Hartford, CT transitioned on Sunday, September 26, 2021. Wayne was born in Hartford, CT on May 6, 1961 to the late Marvin Radney, Sr. and Jessie (Jones) Radney of Hartford. A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, October 22, 2021 at 3:30PM; with visitation from 2:30PM-3:30PM at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service (a division of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services) 94 Granby Street, Bloomfield, CT 06002. To leave a message of comfort for the Radney family and view the full obituary, please visit www.hkhfuneralservices.com

HKH HOWARD K. HILL
FUNERAL SERVICES

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Sussman, Edythe

Edythe Leichman Sussman died peacefully in New Britain, Connecticut on October 19, 2021 at the age of 95, surrounded by her loving family. Edie, as she was known to her family and friends, or "Nana" as she was known to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, was born in Farrell, Pennsylvania, the third daughter of Abraham and Molly Leichman, and lived most of her adult life in New Britain with her late husband, Paul G. Sussman. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Edie was an ardent supporter of her husband, who co-owned Sussman Giant Foods with his two brothers, the late Harold and Bernie Sussman. The store was founded by Edie's in-laws, Julius and Lena Sussman as a deli in 1926 on Broad Street in New Britain. Early in their marriage, Edie and Paul lived in the apartment above Paul's mother's and brother's apartment, which was located above the store. Paul and his brothers, with the support of their wives, grew the business to as many as five stores before selling it in 1989.

Edie was very active well into her 80's. She was an avid and skilled tennis player until she was 83, when knee replacement surgery prevented her from continuing to play. Edie spent winters in Pompano Beach, Florida, but remained in Connecticut through Thanksgiving and returned home from Florida before Passover each year to ensure that she spent those holidays with her family. She also hosted breakfast at her home in New Britain every Sunday morning for her family, including her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Each Sunday--when she was not in Florida--she made eggs to order and served bagels, lox, cream cheese and whitefish. Edie was heavily involved in Hadassah, the temple Sisterhood and the Mr. and Mrs. Club at B'nai Israel, the New Britain synagogue of which she and Paul were members. Edie was a strong supporter of Israel. The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford was her favorite charity.

In her late 80's, Edie moved from her longtime home in New Britain into the Village Gate of Farmington retirement community, where she remained active for years, playing bridge regularly with friends, and Mah Jongg every Tuesday until just two weeks before her passing. Edie leaves her twin daughters, Debra and Cheri; her son, Bruce, and her daughter-in-law, Lisa, whom she thought of as her third daughter, as she had known her for 54 years. She also leaves her sister, Ruth Cohen; and grandchildren, Matthew Loitz and his wife Maria, Aaron Loitz and his wife Shana, Eric Sussman and his fiance Alexis Hersh, Alan Sussman and his wife Alicia Sussman. In addition, she leaves seven great-grandchildren, Sarah Loitz, Nathan Loitz, Arielle Sussman, Jacob Loitz, Jaden Loitz, Hannah Sussman and Mikayla Sussman.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford or The Sussman Families Endowment Fund. A graveside service will be held at Beth Alom Cemetery, 48 Allen Street, New Britain, CT on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Young, Erica Dawn

Erica Dawn Young, 33, of South Windsor, CT departed this life to be with the Lord on Thursday, October 14, 2021. Erica was born on September 26, 1988 in Hartford, CT to David Young and Gwen (Robinson) Young.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 10:00AM at Henry L. Fuqua Funeral Service (A Division of Howard K. Hill Funeral Services) 94 Granby Street, Bloomfield, CT 06002. Interment will immediately follow at Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, 1 Cottage Grove Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002. To leave a message of comfort for the Young family, view the full obituary, and livestreaming of the services, please visit www.hkhfuneralservices.com

HKH HOWARD K. HILL
FUNERAL SERVICES

Established 2004

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IN MEMORIAM**In Loving Memory Of**

JAMES BRIAN DONOVAN

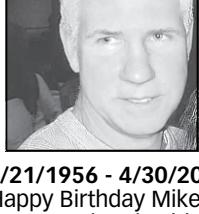


10-21-1946 - 07-21-1981

Yes, Remembered and Loved

In Loving Memory Of

MICHAEL R. HOLT



10/21/1956 - 4/30/2019

Happy Birthday Mike.
Let your soul and spirit fly.
Love you always, Mark and Bonnie

10-21-1946 - 07-21-1981

Yes, Remembered and Loved

IN MEMORIAM**In Loving Memory Of**

ROBERT J. BROWN



10-21-1946 - 07-21-1981

Yes, Remembered and Loved

IN MEMORIAM**In Loving Memory Of**

ROBERT J. BROWN



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IN MEMORIAM**In Loving Memory Of**

ROBERT J. BROWN

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

SANDY HOOK LAWSUIT

Judge to sanction Alex Jones defense lawyers



Attorneys Josh Koskoff, left front, and Chris Mattel, right front, address the media outside the Connecticut Supreme Court September 2019 after arguments were made in the Alex Jones versus Sandy Hook case. Looking on behind Koskoff and Mattel are attorney Matthew Blumenthal, from left, and Sandy Hook victim family members Mark Bardin, Jennifer Hensel, Robbie Parker and Nicole Hockley. **BRAD HORRIGAN/HARTFORD COURANT**

By Zach Murdock
Hartford Courant

A Connecticut judge will sanction the defense attorneys for Alex Jones in the long-running civil lawsuit brought against the inflammatory online conspiracy theorist by the parents of children killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre.

Superior Court Judge Barbara Bellis announced Wednesday morning that she will impose new sanctions on Jones' attorneys for violating a court order when they included information from a confidential deposition this summer in a motion seeking to question former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, suggesting Clinton had arranged

the families' lawsuit as a vendetta against Jones after her 2016 loss to former President Donald Trump.

Bellis also will consider additional sanctions over what she called "highly inappropriate" and "abusive questioning" by Jones defense attorney Jay Wolman during a September deposition, during which he demanded the man being deposed search email records on his phone even though the subpoena issued by the court did not require it, she said.

The Connecticut cases are continuing this fall after a Texas judge's decision late last month to hold Jones responsible for all damages in three similar defamation lawsuits filed

thereafter. Jones repeatedly ignored orders to turn over records to the families' lawyers. Those cases now will be turned over to juries to decide how much in damages Jones must pay to the families while a jury trial in the Connecticut case is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2022.

Frustrated by Wolman's responses to her pointed questions during the two-hour virtual hearing Wednesday, Bellis lambasted the defense attorney and warned Wolman and his co-counselors to be more cautious before "more damage is done," she said.

"I think the arguments were baseless and I think the behavior really is unconscionable," Bellis told Wolman.

"There is no confusion, there can be no confusion, about a very straightforward protective order that (defense) counsel themselves filed and asked the court to approve. And I am concerned about a chilling effect on the testimony of other witnesses."

The exact sanctions over the violation of the protective order will be determined at a hearing in the next few weeks.

Following three other warnings to Wolman in May and June, Bellis also said she is considering whether to sanction Wolman herself over his September deposition conduct or refer the matter to the state's Office

Turn to Lawyers, Page 2



The race for the West Hartford town council race features 15 people, including 14 from among four political parties, vying for nine seats. **COURANT PHOTO**

ELECTION 2021 WEST HARTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Crowded race: 14 candidates from four parties, plus an unaffiliated challenger

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Voters in most Connecticut communities face a traditional choice between Democrats and Republicans on Election Day, but in West Hartford the town council race features four political parties and a petitioning candidate.

The outcome could be as few as two parties sharing power, and but theoretically could end up with an unprecedented five-way split: Democrats, Republicans, A Connecticut Party members, a Libertarian and an unaffiliated councilor.

Fifteen people are vying for the nine town council seats, and the Election

Day outcome could leave the winners trying to put together a coalition government for the next two years.

Democrats have held control of the council for the past 21 years, and are the only party that could come out in this year's election with a majority. They're running six candidates. If five or more win, the party

keeps power.

Republicans are fielding just three candidates, and the A Connecticut Party ticket has only four.

Because they're not running full slates, neither the GOP nor the ACP could win a council majority. That means even if one of them

Turn to Race, Page 2

Man accused of trying to sexually assault girl in home invasion held on \$1 million bail

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

A man who police said sneaked into a Norwalk home in the pre-dawn darkness and tried to sexually assault a girl is under arrest, facing charges that include home invasion and first-degree kidnapping.

Ilmar "Flaco" Rivera, who also goes by Ilmar Rivera-Zuniga, was in custody Wednesday at the Bridgeport Correctional Center on \$1 million bail, prison records show.

Rivera, 22, of Larson

Street in Norwalk, also was charged with third-degree assault, third-degree strangulation, criminal attempt to commit aggravated sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor, police said. He was arrested Monday night.

According to the arrest warrant affidavit, Rivera, a neighbor of the girl known to the family only as "Flaco," had been patching up a hole in her bedroom the night before the Oct. 9 attack. After he finished the first part of the job, he hung out with the girl's mother and two other men, drinking

beer until about 3 a.m., when the mom asked them to leave so she could go to sleep, the mother told police. The three left, and the mother slept on the couch; the girl and her sisters slept in the mother's room because of the project going on in the girl's bedroom.

Rivera came back later, reaching into the mother's bedroom through an opening next to a window air-conditioning unit and touching the girl's leg, the girl said in an interview. Poking her, he told her to open the door for him, and

the girl said no. Her sisters woke up from the commotion, so the girl turned on the television for them, the warrant said.

Rivera then appeared in the bedroom and lay on the bed next to the girl, who pushed him away and moved. He moved next to her again, the warrant said. She took her younger sister to the bathroom and Rivera followed, telling her to give him her sister, the warrant said. She again said no.

The girl put her sister to bed, and the mother got up to check on her.

Turn to Bond, Page 2

NORTH HARTFORD

Residents hope Promise Zone will succeed where other programs have failed

By Rebecca Lurye
Hartford Courant

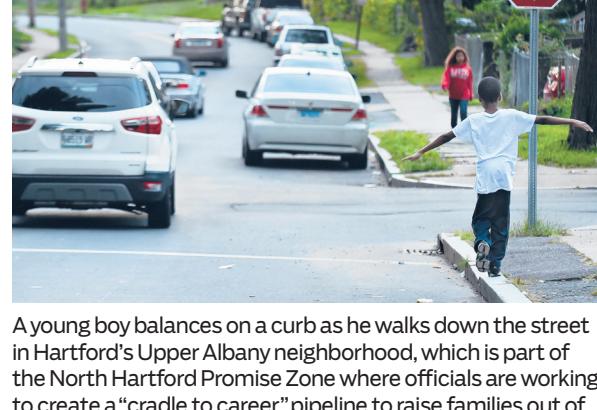
HARTFORD — As planning begins for a \$66 million program to raise families in the North Hartford Promise Zone out of poverty, community members say they want the initiative to connect siloed organizations, reduce gun violence, and address a behavioral health crisis.

Those priorities were voiced by some of the two dozen attendees of a Tues-

day town hall meeting in the city's North End, the first community event aimed at educating and engaging residents around the creation of the North Hartford Ascend Pipeline.

Funded with a \$30 million federal grant, the pipeline will serve about 575 families in the North Hartford Promise Zone by creating and expanding support programs from prenatal care to career

Turn to Program, Page 2



A young boy balances on a curb as he walks down the street in Hartford's Upper Albany neighborhood, which is part of the North Hartford Promise Zone where officials are working to create a "cradle to career" pipeline to raise families out of poverty. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Former volunteer for state senator admits fraud

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

A former campaign volunteer for state Sen. Dennis Bradley, who is under indictment on allegations he tried to cheat Connecticut's public campaign-financing system, has pleaded guilty to federal charges she sought to defraud the fund, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Tina Manus waived her right to be indicted and pleaded guilty Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Bridgeport, said Leonard C. Boyle, acting U.S.

attorney for the District of Connecticut, and David Sundberg, special FBI agent in charge in New Haven.

She pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, which carries a maximum prison term of 20 years. The conspiracy charge is related to her role in trying to obtain public money for the 2018 campaign of state Sen. Dennis Bradley Jr., prosecutors say.

Bradley, a Bridgeport Democrat, and his campaign treasurer,

Turn to Fraud, Page 2

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Lawyers

from Page 1

of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, which investigates complaints against attorneys. She said she is "leaning toward" issuing a sanction herself, but that she will decide at a hearing scheduled for early November.

The sanctions are the latest turn in the highly contentious legal battle against Jones by parents of several children killed in the horrific 2012 shooting that left 20 first graders and six educators dead. The families sued Jones for defamation after he repeatedly portrayed the Newtown massacre as a hoax on his online Infowars show, ostensibly designed to prompt new gun control measures.

Jones has claimed his inflammatory monologues were protected by the First Amendment, even though he now admits he was wrong and has since conceded in court that the shooting did occur.

The Texas judge who ruled against Jones this month noted that he and his Infowars companies have engaged in similar, obstructive behavior in the Connecticut lawsuits, and Bellis has raised similar concerns throughout this year.

Depositions finally began in the Connecticut cases this summer. Attorney Chris Mattei, a lawyer representing the Sandy Hook families, revealed during the hearing Wednesday that Jones' attorneys' motion to depose Clinton came in the middle of that first deposition with Erica Lafferty. The filing contends Clinton orchestrated the Sandy Hook families' lawsuit as a "vendetta to silence Mr. Jones" after her loss to Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

The filing includes two



In this September 2018 photo, Alex Jones speaks outside of the Dirksen building on Capitol Hill in Washington. On April 5, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal by the Infowars host and conspiracy theorist, who was fighting a Connecticut court sanction in a defamation lawsuit brought by relatives of some of the victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

sentences that make reference to an unnamed plaintiff and witness — information available only from the deposition being taken that day that was supposed to be entirely confidential, Mattei contended.

Wolman countered that the information did not name Lafferty directly and therefore did not violate the confidentiality rules as he understood them.

Bellis dismissed that argument out of hand, noting the protective order outlining those confidentiality rules was drafted by the defense team and chastised Wolman for not directly answering her questions. She agreed with Mattei's contention that the filing could have a "chilling" effect on the testimony other

witnesses may give during their depositions.

"It was designed to set a tone for their conduct for the rest of the case, and that's what they did," Mattei told Bellis. "These unconvincing pleas that somehow the protective order was unclear. ... It is, I think, inexcusable that our clients would give information to Mr. Jones and his attorneys when they have shown such disregard for the protective order."

Bellis also lambasted Wolman for his conduct during a Sept. 17 deposition of Robert Jacobson, a former video producer for one of the companies that worked with Jones' show who did not have an attorney representing him at the deposition.

Although Jacobson told Wolman he did not have any documents responsive to Wolman's subpoena, Wolman "pressured and barraged" Jacobson to search his email accounts on his mobile phone for the phrase "Sandy Hook," Bellis said. Even after the attorneys arranged to speak with Bellis about the dispute during the deposition, Wolman continued to "harass" Jacobson and may have misled him about whether he was required to search his phone — potentially violating several attorney conduct rules, she said.

"Had the court had any inkling of the abusive questioning that was being conducted by attorney Wolman, I would have immediately — immediately — stopped the deposition. And if I was going to permit any further questioning of that witness, it would have been done in open court," Bellis said.

Bellis sanctioned Jones in 2019 for not turning over documents and unleashing a 20-minute, profanity-laced tirade about the case on his show, at one point referring to Mattei and a \$1 million bounty "to put your head on a pike." The Connecticut Supreme Court upheld Bellis' sanction, which barred Jones from filing a motion to dismiss the case, and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear Jones' appeal of the decision this spring.

"Because of the concerns I've voiced and because of what I've heard from counsel for the Alex Jones defendants ... I am very concerned that the defendants in this case, having expressed confusion of a very clear protective order, that there are going to be problems in the future," Bellis said in concluding the hearing Wednesday. "I strongly suggest, for your own interests, as well as your client's interests, that you are on the side of caution and seek advice from the court if you have any concerns about how to proceed ... so that you don't get yourselves in a situation where more damage is done."

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Race

from Page 1

wins on Nov. 2, they'll still have to work with another party — and possibly two — to pass anything on the council.

The possibilities become even more complex because of two contenders who are running alone: petitioning candidate Aaron Sarwar and Libertarian David Dehaas.

If Sarwar or Dehaas wins, for example, while Democrats, Republicans and the ACP each get only two to three seats each, the major-party winners might need cooperation from Sarwar or Dehaas to pass controversial measures after they take office.

And on matters where the charter requires a supermajority — six votes — for approval, the negotiations could get even more complex.

In all, this year's ballot will have the second most council candidates in more than half a century. In 1979, Republicans and Democrats each fielded six while, and

six more people ran on the Independent line, said Town Clerk Essie Labrot.

"This is the first time from 1969 to present that we have had two major parties, two minor parties and one petitioning candidate on the same ballot for town council," Lebrot reported.

Only one petitioning candidate won in that time: Barbara Carpenter, who'd previously been elected to the council as a Republican.

Among the new council's first tasks will be choosing a new mayor; traditionally the dominant party makes that decision, but this time around it could be very different.

Most of the complexity this year results from a huge fracture within the local Republican Party in the spring. At the time, Democrats held a 6-3 majority, the largest any party is allowed.

Minority Leader Lee Gold, the top voter-getter from the Republicans ballot in 2019, announced he was leaving the GOP along with party Chairman Mark Merritt and residents Rick Bush and Roni Rodman.

They said the national Republican Party had swung too far right, and declared they'd resurrect the dormant A Connecticut Party — founded by Lowell Weicker 31 years earlier. All four renounced their GOP registration, and are running on the ACP line.

Local Republicans leaders claimed Gold had sided too often with tax increases and spending measures, and the party produced a more conservative slate for this fall. Incumbent Mary Fay along with Mark Zydanowicz, a school board member, and Al Cortes, who previously ran in 2019, are running on the GOP line.

Democrats are running Mayor Shari Cantor and incumbents Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Leon Davidoff and Carol Blanks along with Adrienne Billings-Smith.

Labrot is encouraging residents who vote by absentee ballot to carefully check that they've voted for no more than six candidates in the council race. Ballots with too many selections are disqualified.

Program

from Page 1

readiness, while another \$36 million will be contributed by community partners.

Helen Nixon, a long-time community organizer and activist, was among those at Tuesday's town hall, which included a presentation by the grant recipient, Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford. Like others who spoke, Nixon said she hoped the pipeline will finally bring about changes that have eluded the zone's neighborhoods — Clay Arsenal, Northeast and Upper Albany — in the past.

"There's a lot of money coming into our neighborhood but it's not really solving the problem," she said. "Because we've been hitting and missing, we have all these different programs, people from all over, but we're not really, really, really talking together."

As a result, she said, kids are falling through the cracks, she said. So are men like her grandson Chase Hernandez, who was shot to death at age 27 in 2017 while trying to buy an ounce of marijuana in the North End.

Hernandez, a father of two, had a college education and was preparing to become a fireman, Nixon said. He was among 29 people murdered in Hartford in 2017, a death toll that's already been surpassed this year with two months left in 2021 as the capital city contends with a national surge in gun

violence.

Antonia Edwards, a leader in the Greater Hartford NAACP, also spoke about the loss of her grandson, an 8-year-old boy who was killed in an accidental shooting in New Haven last year. Edwards said his death was a result of unaddressed behavioral health issues.

Edwards does not live in Hartford, nor did her grandson die in the city. Still, she said she hopes this new program will improve the access and quality of behavioral health care that families in the Promise Zone receive.

"I think we should focus a lot on the training for the staff, for being culturally competent in regards to the different diversities and peoples' backgrounds," she said.

Connecticut is experiencing overwhelming demand for pediatric behavioral health care, leaving dozens of children in mental health crises waiting for care at Children's and other hospitals.

Whatever the problems the pipeline seeks to address, residents called for robust evaluation of its results. This has not always been done in the past, Nixon said.

"Here, we can hold people accountable for what we do," she said.

Children's and its partners intend to spend 12 to 18 months planning the pipeline, which will receive \$6 million in federal funding each year for the next six years. Officials said they will hold additional community meetings on the effort.

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Fraud

from Page 1

Jessica Martinez, were indicted in May on federal charges they conspired to cheat the state's public campaign-financing system of about \$180,000.

Each pleaded not guilty and is awaiting trial.

Federal prosecutors said that by lying about spending and other campaign finance issues, Bradley's campaign stole an \$84,140 primary campaign grant in 2018 and tried, but failed, to steal an additional \$95,710 taxpayer-financed campaign grant for the general election.

Manus, a volunteer for Bradley's campaign, was accused of conspiring with the lawmaker and Martinez between March and October 2018 to defraud the Connecticut State Election Enforcement Commission, Citizens' Election Fund and state of Connecticut. They were accused of misrepresenting compliance with state election law and requirements and restrictions of the public election-financing program that candidates use to apply for grants to finance party primary and general election campaigns.

The announcement of Manus' guilty plea came



Tina Manus, a campaign volunteer for state Sen. Dennis Bradley, above, D-Bridgeport, has pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud related to the state's public campaign fund. COURTESY

hours after state Rep. Michael DiMassa was charged in federal court in New Haven in a separate case. Prosecutors say he stole more than \$600,000 in federal COVID relief money by billing the city of West Haven where he worked as an aide to the City Council for pandemic-related consulting work that officials said he did

not perform.

Federal prosecutors say a portion of the alleged thefts appears to correspond with DiMassa's purchase of tens of thousands of dollars in gambling chips at the Mohegan Sun casino.

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Bond

from Page 1

bed and when she tried to get out of the room, Rivera was "moving from side to side, trying to catch her," the warrant said. She was able to run out of the room and she ran to the couch where her mother was sleeping, but she could not wake her up. Rivera pulled her away from her mother.

The girl then ran into the kitchen, grabbed the biggest knife she could find and swung it at him, screaming at him. But he grabbed her around her torso and covered her mouth, scratching her face, the warrant said.

He then took the girl to her own bedroom, put her on the bed and got on top of her, according to the warrant. She kicked him away and he grabbed her again, pushing her face against the bed. He reached under her panties and touched her buttocks, it said.

The girl cried and yelled and finally was able to scream very loudly, the warrant said, and Rivera ran out. Her mother woke up and heard someone rush out of the apartment, leaving both slip-on sandals, or slides, behind.

Police later reviewed footage from a neighborhood surveillance camera of Rivera walking toward the family's home wearing

the slides and running back with just socks on at 4:59 a.m., the warrant said.

The girl has a scrape and scratches on her face and chest and hasn't been able to sleep in her mother's apartment since the attack, it said.

Police indicated the girl was traumatized by the attack, saying in a news release, "The child has since been released from the hospital, and faces a long path to recovery."

When police caught up to Rivera, he said only that he had been at the home to do a job, and that a fresh scratch on his wrist was from work.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Hospitalizations are at lowest level since early August

Weekly positivity rate sits at 2.08%

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut reported its lowest number of hospitalizations since early August on Wednesday, as well as a daily COVID-19 test positivity rate that once again dipped below 2%.

At the same time, the state's weekly positivity rate increased slightly to 2.08%, the highest it has been in the past two weeks.

In recent days, Connecticut's COVID-19 metrics have drifted up and down, with the state reporting its highest number of hospitalizations in three weeks

on Tuesday, followed by a significant drop on Wednesday.

Experts say it remains unclear whether the state will see a spike in COVID-19 metrics toward the end of the year, as a result of holiday gatherings and colder weather.

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 384 COVID-19 cases out of 20,427 tests administered Wednesday, for a daily test positivity rate of 1.88%. The state's weekly positivity rate now stands at 2.08%, the highest it has been since Oct. 3.

Hospitalizations

As of Wednesday, there were 226 people in Connecticut hospitalized with COVID-19, a decrease of 22 individuals since Tuesday. Hospitalizations are now at the lowest level they have been since Aug. 10.

That drop in hospitalizations — among the most significant the state has seen in weeks — came the day after Connecticut reported its highest number of hospitalizations since late September.

Deaths

Connecticut reports coronavirus-linked deaths once a week. On Thursday, the state reported 40 COVID-19

deaths over the past week, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,707.

The United States has now recorded 728,826 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Tuesday, 77.9% of all Connecticut residents and 89.3% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 70% of all residents and 80.4% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

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Zack Gistin gets a COVID-19 vaccine shot from Leah Edoloverio, a registered nurse with Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, on Oct. 7 in Los Angeles. FILE

Assembly Room opening soon in downtown New Britain

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

A dining hall with four restaurants and a bar will open in a few weeks in downtown New Britain, filling the first floor of a five-story 1885 building that recently had its upper floors converted into 44 apartments.

The Assembly Room is in the 222 on Main building, which is owned and developed by Dan Czyzewski.

The tenants in the 7,500-square-feet Assembly Room space include a bar called The Industrial; a coffee shop named Miel; a sushi spot called Nikko; a Creole BBQ; and an eatery that combines the menus of three stalls of Hartford's Parkville Market: Fowl Play, Las Tortas MX and Burrito Loko.

Czyzewski said the space, which also has a pool table and a 500-square-feet rentable function room, should have its grand opening on a Friday in early November.

The Assembly Room will serve food and drinks from early morning to late at night. "The café will open for breakfasts and then the other restaurants will open in morning and afternoon and the bar will be open into the night," Czyzewski said.

"We chose this concept because the space is too big for just one tenant. We wanted to diversify and give people options and expand the nightlife in the downtown area."

The hall has open seating for about 200 people, inside at small tables and on plush sofas, as well as on a patio behind the building that can be walled in during cold weather.

City Planner Steven P. Schiller said Czyzewski's multi-restaurant vision has been tried, without luck, by others in the city.

"Developers have broached the idea in other large vacant spaces downtown. They just haven't been able to pull it off," Schiller said. "It's a difficult thing, retrofitting a former commercial space in a big, old building, putting in systems like public bathrooms, fire suppression for restaurant areas, things like that."

"Maybe this will be a model for others. I'm excited about the additional vibrancy and activity in our downtown area," Schiller said.

For decades starting in the late 19th century, the five-story building was home



The Assembly Room, a dining hall on Main Street in New Britain, was developed by owner Dan Czyzewski, left. Among the tenants are, from left, Marlon and Andres Soriano, who own The Industrial bar; Enrique Rodriguez, who owns Fowl Play-Las Tortas MX-Burrito Loko; and Vincent Placeres, who owns Creole BBQ. KRISTIN BAKER/THE ASSEMBLY ROOM

to BC Porter & Sons furniture store. Schiller said that business closed about 25 years ago. More recently, the first floor was the home of National Discount Stores.

Enrique Rodriguez said he plans to open early for breakfast and stay open until late in the evening.

"We want to make people feel like home here, a place where they can go after leaving their offices around here, where they can sit on a comfy couch and have a beer and a hot chicken sandwich," he said.

Miel, which will serve coffee, espresso, smoothies, pastries and grab-and-go items, is owned by Humberto Ontiveros. Nikko, which will sell salad and ceviche as well as sushi, is owned by Africa Vargas.

Placeres' flagship MofonGo is just a few seconds' walk from The Assembly Room. Placeres will smoke the meat and do the cooking at MofonGo and put together the meals at The Assembly Room.

Andres and Marlon Soriano, the El Salvador-born brothers behind Que Chivo restaurant at Parkville Market, own The Industrial bar, whose name evokes New Britain's manufacturing history.

Andres Soriano has worked for Max Restaurant Group for 18 years, the last six as bar manager at Max Fish in Glastonbury. Marlon got his start in the restaurant industry at Max also.

"Our bar will be upscale, craft cocktails, wines by the glass and by the bottle. We also will serve tapas plates, meats and cheeses," Andres Soriano said. "We want to have live music."

The Fowl Play-Las Tortas MX-Burrito Loko restaurant is owned by Enrique and Julie Rodriguez, who own those restaurants at Parkville Market. The Rodriguezes have the only full-service kitchen in the space.

Enrique Rodriguez said he

plans to open early for breakfast and stay open until late in the evening.

"We want to make people feel like home here, a place where they can go after leaving their offices around here, where they can sit on a comfy couch and have a beer and a hot chicken sandwich," he said.

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Czyzewski said all 44 apartments he developed on floors two through five of the 222 Main St. building are occupied and he has a long waiting list. Other apartment development has been taking place downtown. He said the downtown residential boom often makes street parking a challenge. He encouraged visitors to The Assembly Room to park in the nearby city garage.

For information, see theassemblyroomct.com.

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Grant program has handed out \$40 million over the last 20 years

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

tive director.

How does the grant program work?

In mid-March 2020, the onset of the coronavirus pandemic sent the Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs in Connecticut into a panic.

Clubs within the state were "really scrambling" to find ways to continue serving their communities in a safe way, said Don Maleto, executive director of the alliance. Schools closed for in-person instruction, but the need for safe learning environments remained for many.

Maleto credits a grant from the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, or CHEFA, for helping to quiet the storm. With the help of the \$300,000 award, distributed among the 16 Boys and Girls organizations in the state, clubs were able to transition to virtual programming while strengthening safety protocols for the return of in-person activities.

"CHEFA's grant was supporting us all along; there was enough latitude written into it that it was really like, 'we're gonna support you on your virtual learning, we're gonna support you as kids come back to the club,'" Maleto said.

CHEFA is a quasi-public entity created in 1965 by the General Assembly that helps nonprofits, like hospitals and universities, access capital in the form of tax-exempt revenue bonds or loans. This year, CHEFA is celebrating the 20th year of its philanthropic grant-making program, created in 2002 to provide nonprofits outside of the organization's client base with funding to cover program costs or capital expenditures.

It's the same program that aided Boys and Girls Clubs in Connecticut, as well as several other nonprofits in the spheres of childcare, culture, education and health care. Since its inception, CHEFA has distributed about \$40 million in grants to nonprofits across the state.

"We don't want to be the best-kept secret, we want our grants to be publicized and for organizations to come to us," said Jeanette Weldon, CHEFA's execu-

tive director.

Betty Sugerman Weintraub, CHEFA's grant program manager, said the program is unique for its statewide reach. Most nonprofits in the state can apply to CHEFA's nonprofit grant cycle, whereas many other philanthropic organizations are place-based and only extend funds within their geographic footprints.

Maleto said local Boys and Girls clubs rely on place-based funding to keep up with costs but receive minimal help from state dollars, making CHEFA's grant program a boon.

CHEFA's grants can also be used to fund capital expenditures like infrastructure improvements which Weintraub said sets them apart from other funders.

"When it comes to an organization that does youth programming, and they have a leaky roof and it leaks onto their computer

lab and their dance studio, then it's hard to run your program if you have those infrastructure needs," she said. That's based on a real example: In 2017, CHEFA awarded a \$75,000 grant to Leadership, Education, Athletics in Partnership in New Haven to replace the building's leaking roof.

COVID-19 support

CHEFA has three grant cycles in a typical year. One is for preexisting CHEFA clients, which include about 150 larger education or health care institutions. Another is open to virtually all state nonprofits so long as they operate under a broad definition of the organization's priority sectors of childcare, culture, education and health care, with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$75,000. The organization also has a larger targeted grant program to support statewide interests, which in recent years has meant \$1,000,000 in grants dedicated to workforce development programs.

Grant recipients included Hartford HealthCare, which received \$400,000 to support 10 mobile COVID-19 testing sites with testing supplies and protective equipment. Connecticut State Colleges and Universities received \$350,000 toward a student relief fund for undocumented students, and the Connecticut After School Network received \$220,000 to provide staff with protective equipment and support continued programming, among others.

The largest grant was awarded to the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, which totaled \$486,000 distributed among the association's 17 federally qualified health centers. The grant enabled health centers to purchase rapid-testing machines to test patients and front-line staff for COVID-19, and create negative pressure rooms and weather-proof testing tents to facilitate safe treatment.

The health centers also distributed over 2,600 patient health kits, which included thermometers and pulse oximeters to help aid telehealth services as patients transitioned to online care.

"[Telehealth] was something brand new for health centers, and the medically underserved populations to which they provide care," said Russell E. Dexter, the association's chief quality officer. "A transition had to occur, and grants like this were critical to supporting that transition."



In this 2017 photo, Betty Sugerman-Weintraub, CHEFA Grants Program Manager cuts the ribbon to the new CHEFA-funded van with Gaylord Hospital outpatient Cheryl Chiara for its inaugural trip. JSAVULAK3/COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

HARTFORD

Police investigate shooting after wounded woman shows up at hospital

By Christine Dempsey
Hartford Courant

Hartford police said they are investigating a shooting that wounded a woman early Wednesday.

Officers learned about the shooting shortly before 3:30 a.m. when they were dispatched to Saint Francis Hospital, where a gunshot victim had arrived for treatment, police said. The woman had been shot in the foot and is expected to recover.

Police said they have

not been able to determine where the shooting happened.

The department's Major Crimes and Crime Scene divisions are investigating. Anyone with information that may help detectives is asked to call the department's tip line at 860-722-8477 (TIPS).

There were more nonfatal shootings this year and in 2020 than in previous years, police said.

Assuming the woman was shot in Hartford, she is the 140th victim of a nonfatal

shooting this year in Hartford, Lt. Aaron Boisvert said — roughly the same number as in all of 2019 (143) and 2018 (143). It is more than in 2017, when 134 victims survived being shot.

Last year at this time, more than seven months into the coronavirus pandemic, there were about 176 victims of nonfatal shootings. There were 225 in all of 2020, police statistics show.

Christine Dempsey can be reached at cdempsey@courant.com.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Robert P McGowan (21-0623)
The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated October 15, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Margaret Piergrossi, 214 Alps Rd, Unit 14, Branford, CT 06405
10/21/2021 7066335

CITY OF MIDDLETON INVITATION TO BID
Sealed proposals, addressed to the Supervisor of Purchases, City of Middletown, Room 112, Municipal Building, Middletown, Connecticut, will be received until Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM for the following:
BID #2021-023
MANHOLE ELEVATION ADJUSTMENTS
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT
Bid documents may be obtained at the Purchasing Office, Room 112, Municipal Building, 245 DeKoven Drive, Middletown, CT, Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., for a fee of \$.50 per page. It is preferred that they are downloaded free of charge on the City of Middletown web site: www.MiddletownCT.gov. All questions concerning this bid should be directed in writing to the Purchasing Department via fax at 860-638-4895 or email at purchase@MiddletownCT.gov.

Bids will not be publicly opened in the Municipal Building, however, bids will be opened and read aloud via Webex. Additional information and a link will be provided on our website www.middletownct.gov for those interested in viewing the bid opening via Webex.

The City of Middletown reserves the right to waive any defect or any irregularity in any bid and reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof. Bids, and amendments to bids received after the time set for the bid opening will not be considered. All bids must be completely filled out when submitted. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days subsequent to the opening of bids without the City of Middletown's written consent. Withdrawal of any bid must be submitted in writing to the City of Middletown.

All bids and proposals are subject to, and must comply with the equal opportunity and non-discriminatory provisions set forth in the Affirmative Action Plan of the City of Middletown.

Dated: 10/21/2021
Middletown, Connecticut
/s/ Donna L. Formato, CPPB, NIGP-CPP
Supervisor of Purchases
10/21/2021 7064562

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ESTATE OF Heather Downey Desilio, Late of Old Saybrook (21-0652)
The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated October 18, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk
The fiduciary is:
Morgan Desilio
c/o JANE R MARSH, LAW OFFICES OF JANE R MARSH, LLC, 6 ELM ST, DEEP RIVER, CT 06417
10/21/2021 7066824

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH
The Electors of the Town of Killingworth and all those qualified to vote in meetings of said Town are hereby notified and warned that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the All Purpose Room of the Killingworth Elementary School, 340 Route 81, Killingworth, CT on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items of business:
1) to approve funding, from the under-expended lines, overexpenditures in FY 2020-21 in excess of \$20,000 for the following line items:
Selectmen - Office Expense - COVID Related \$41,002
Town Counsel \$32,199
Compactor Operations \$51,729
Tax Refunds \$29,875
2) to confirm the Selectmen's appointment of William Raymond Burley, Brian James Blair, and James Joseph Duffield as Killingworth representatives to the Haddam-Killingworth Recreation Authority, for a term to commence upon confirmation and to continue until June 30, 2022.
Dated at Killingworth, Connecticut this 18th day of October 2021
Catherine Lino, First Selectwoman
Louis C. Annino, Jr., Selectman
Eileen Blewett, Selectwoman
10/21/2021 7066355

TOWN OF EAST HADDAM LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION TO BID
Sealed Bids to supply Sand for Snow and Ice Control will be received at the Office of the First Selectman at the Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, P.O. Box 385, Moodus, CT 06469, until 10:00 a.m. local time, on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Bids will be opened at that time and date. Bidders shall mark the outside envelope of their bid "Sand Bid".
The bid is to supply an estimated quantity of 3,000 cubic yards of approved sand delivered to the town stockpile at 7 Hood Lane on an as needed basis during the 2021-22 winter season.
Interested persons may obtain copies of the bid documents at the Selectmen's Office, Town of East Haddam Municipal Office Complex, 1 Plains Road, Moodus, CT, telephone (860) 873-5021 or by email admin@easthaddam.org during regular business hours.
Questions regarding the bid should be addressed to Steven Hedler, Public Works Superintendent for the Town of East Haddam at (860) 873-5023.
Dated at East Haddam, Connecticut
This 20th day of October, 2021
Robert R. Smith
First Selectman
10/21/21 7065987

Car Reviews SATURDAYS IN Motoring
A person driving a car with a steering wheel and dashboard.

OPEN HOUSE

All are welcome!

Oct. 28, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Join us to learn about degree programs, debt-free community college, scholarships and transfer opportunities.

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INTRODUCING

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at MARY WADE

A Brand-New Assisted Living & Memory Care Residence

Opening in the fall, Chatham Place at Mary Wade is a brand-new, state-of-the-art senior living residence offering assisted living and memory care right in the hometown you love – New Haven!

Our residents will enjoy the best of both worlds – the independent, active and social lifestyle they want with the 24-hour personalized support and security they deserve.

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Chatham Place
at MARY WADE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

138 Clinton Avenue
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New Haven's Newest Senior Living Community
OPENING FALL 2021

Housing Counsel SUNDAYS IN Home & Real Estate

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If you're looking to whip up a delish dish, try The Daily Meal today.

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LiVING

WWW.COURANT.COM/FEATURES



GRACIA LAM/THE NEW YORK TIMES

KNOCK DOWN the SALT in your DIET

For many, reducing sodium even modestly can have a major impact on lowering blood pressure

By Jane E. Brody
The New York Times

Sometimes, seemingly small changes in a health measurement can make a large difference to people's well-being. Such is the case with the effect on blood pressure of the essential nutrient sodium, the problematic half of the popular flavoring agent sodium chloride, commonly known as salt.

The amount of salt that is safe for people to consume has been embroiled in controversy for a century, and the debate is unlikely to be resolved anytime soon. Scores of studies of varying quality linking sodium intake and health have swung the pendulum back and forth, stymying regulations to limit sodium in most commercially prepared foods. Some people are especially sensitive to sodium's ability to raise blood pressure, but given how common high blood pressure already is, and how difficult it is to avoid consuming too much salt, many experts maintain that the safest approach is an overall reduction in sodium levels in prepared and processed foods.

More than 100 million Americans have high blood pressure, a disorder that increases their risk of heart attacks and strokes, and which, for many people, is made worse by consuming too much sodium. Just a 4-millimeter rise in blood pressure — say, from 130 to 134 millimeters of mercury — can jeopardize the health of some people, and the blood pressure of those who are especially salt-sensitive can rise by 10 or more millimeters of mercury on a typical high-salt diet. In 2010, a Stanford University team estimated that cutting

about 350 milligrams of sodium a day (less than a sixth of a teaspoon) would lower systolic blood pressure by only 1.25 millimeters of mercury yet avert about 1 million strokes and heart attacks.

A new study conducted in 600 villages in rural China of 20,995 people known to face a high risk of stroke, demonstrated that substituting reduced-sodium salt for regular table salt significantly decreased the rate of cardiovascular events and associated deaths during an average follow-up of less than five years.

The protection occurred in households that used modified table salt in which potassium chloride replaced 30% of sodium chloride, even though there was no change in their use of other rich sources of sodium like soy sauce and MSG. Fifteen years earlier, a similar study among elderly veterans in Taiwan who used a potassium-enriched salt reduced cardiovascular mortality by 41% in less than three years.

The amount of sodium in the typical American diet is more than one-third higher than the daily limit of 2,300 milligrams recommended by the American Heart Association for otherwise healthy people, and it is more than double the amount — 1,500 milligrams — the association considers ideal for people with elevated blood pressure. The actual physiological requirement for sodium is a mere 220 milligrams a day, so these recommended amounts provide a huge safety margin.

The human species evolved on a low-sodium diet of 200 to 600 milligrams a day. In fact, our bodies are designed to conserve sodium and get rid of potassium, which explains why

More than 100 million Americans have high blood pressure, a disorder that increases their risk of heart attacks and strokes, and which, for many people, is made worse by consuming too much sodium.

a high-sodium diet can be a problem. The body holds on to excess sodium, increasing the chances of ill effects.

Before refrigeration, salt was prized for its ability to preserve foods, and was so highly valued it was used for currency. Now, salt has become the bête noir of physicians who treat heart disease, hypertension and kidney disease, among other deadly disorders. Although doctors have long argued that Americans should consume less salt, the wheels of regulatory action turn at a glacial pace, and modifying people's taste buds is equally challenging.

As far back as 1979, an advisory group commissioned by the Food and Drug Administration recommended that salt's status as "generally recognized as safe" should be reconsidered. But the agency only asked the food industry to voluntarily reduce the amount of salt used in commercial foods. Now, at least, the amount of sodium in packaged foods has been added to nutrition labels, giving consumers a leg up if they take the time to compare brands.

The ongoing problem with salt is thoroughly discussed in an excellent book published last year, "Salt Wars,

The Battle Over the Biggest Killer in the American Diet," by Michael F. Jacobson, the former executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a consumer advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

Without waiting for a regulatory hammer, Jacobson told me, "some companies have made a real effort to lower the amount of sodium in their products. There are lots of tricks companies can use."

Companies have found that gradually lowering the sodium content of their products and making no fanfare about it, like not claiming they are "low sodium," actually fosters consumer acceptance. Most people don't even notice the change.

But you may not have to wait for companies to do the work. You can reduce the salt in many canned foods, like beans, by rinsing them in a colander. In cooking, rather than adding salt when preparing a recipe, try salting the finished product, which is likely to please your palate with considerably less salt. Seasoning foods with citrus juices, hot-pepper flakes or other pungent herbs and spices can go a long way to make up for reduced salt. You might also eat less bread; as a category, bread and other bakery products contribute more to Americans' sodium intake than any other foodstuffs.

If you hope to enhance your health by cutting down on sodium, one trick is to avoid going cold turkey. I and many others have found that it is relatively easy to reduce one's preference for high salt by gradually using and consuming less of it. As your taste buds adjust, high-salt foods you once enjoyed will probably taste unpleasantly salty and thus easy to resist.

Survey: Marijuana aids breast cancer patients, but many hide use from doctors

By Katie Camero
The Charlotte Observer

New survey results reveal many patients with breast cancer smoke, vape or consume marijuana to alleviate symptoms and side effects from treatments — but most of them hide the cannabis use from their doctors.

And the hesitancy goes both ways. Existing research has shown that doctors feel they lack the necessary information to



DREAMSTIME

discuss or recommend marijuana use during or after cancer treatment, despite cancer being a qual-

ified condition in nearly all states that have medical cannabis programs.

Of 612 breast cancer

patients who completed an anonymous online survey, 39% said they have asked their doctors about marijuana; 76% of these talks were initiated by the patient, mostly those who were older in age. Among this group however, younger patients were more likely to feel supported by their physician, according to the study recently published in *Cancer*, a journal from the American Cancer Society. In all, 28% of survey

respondents said they felt uncomfortable discussing cannabis with their doctors. Researchers speculate the social stigma around using marijuana may be to blame.

Instead, patients are seeking out information on medical cannabis from the internet, other patients, and friends and family, the survey shows. Physicians were among the least likely people patients turned to for advice.

"Not knowing whether

or not our cancer patients are using cannabis is a major blind spot in our ability to provide optimal care," study lead author Dr. Marisa Weiss, chief medical officer and founder of Breastcancer.org, said in a release. "As health care providers, we need to do a better job of initiating informed conversations about medical cannabis with our patients to make sure their symptoms and side effects are being adequately managed."

CELEBRITIES

John King shares MS diagnosis on air

From news services

CNN's John King revealed during an on-air discussion of COVID-19 vaccine mandates Tuesday that he has multiple sclerosis.

"I'm going to share a secret I've never spoken before," King said while leading a panel discussion on "Inside Politics." "I'm immunocompromised. I have multiple sclerosis. So, I'm grateful you're all vaccinated."

King and his guests were talking about mandates in the context of the death of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, who died Monday of COVID-19 complications despite being vaccinated because he had cancer that compromised his immune system.

CNN mandates that all employees who come to work in an office or are out in the field with other people be vaccinated.

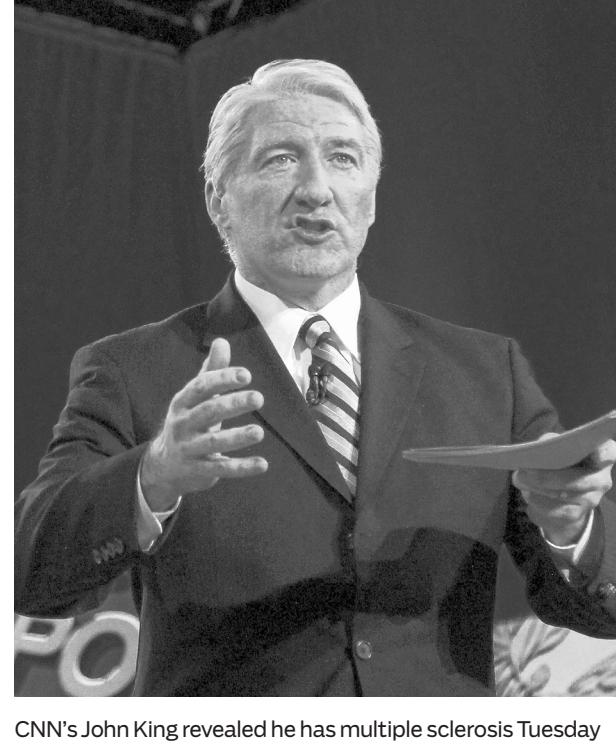
Couric discusses Lauer allegations: TV journalist Katie Couric's relationship with "Today" co-anchor Matt Lauer "devolved and ultimately deteriorated," she said in an interview that aired Tuesday about her new memoir.

Asked where her relationship stands now with Lauer, who was fired in 2017 for what NBC called "inappropriate sexual behavior" toward female colleagues, Couric said flatly, "We have no relationship." In her memoir "Going There," she shares a series of revelations about Lauer, whom she worked with for nine years.

"That was really, really hard, and it took me a long time to process what was going on," Couric told NBC "Today" anchor Savannah Guthrie.

But the emerging revelations made her wonder if she'd known him at all.

"As I got more information and learned what



CNN's John King revealed he has multiple sclerosis Tuesday on his show "Inside Politics." ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP 2012

was going on behind the scenes, it was really upsetting and disturbing," Couric said. "... I think what I realized is there was a side of Matt I never really knew. And I tried to understand why he behaved the way he did and why he was so reckless and callous, and honestly abusive to other women."

Ice-T, friend pen memoir: Rapper and actor Ice-T has a deal with Gallery Books for the memoir "Split Decision," in which he and his longtime friend, identified only as Spike, look back on their time as partners in jewelry heists in Los Angeles and elsewhere.

Spike ended up in prison while Ice-T went on to fame as a musician and for his roles in "New Jack City" and the TV series "Law & Order: SVU" among others. Gallery, a division of Simon & Schuster, will publish the book July 19.

"I grew up in a very bad set of circumstances and my trajectory was that of a dangerous career criminal, not a famous actor and

musician," Ice-T said in a statement Tuesday. "It was one split decision that put me on a positive path that changed my life forever."

Songwriter Bricusse dies: Oscar-winning British songwriter Leslie Bricusse, whose work includes James Bond themes and Willy Wonka's signature tune, has died. He was 90.

His son Adam Bricusse said on Facebook that his father "passed away peacefully" Tuesday. No cause of death was given.

Actor Joan Collins, a friend, said on Instagram that Bricusse, who wrote both music and lyrics, "was one of the giant songwriters of our time."

Oct. 21 birthdays: Actor Joyce Randolph is 97. TV judge Judy Sheindlin is 79. Actor Everett McGill is 76. Guitarist Charlotte Caffey is 68. Actor Ken Watanabe is 62. Singer Matthew Ramsey is 44. Actor Michael McMillian is 43. TV personality Kim Kardashian is 41. Actor Charlotte Sullivan is 38. Singer Kane Brown is 28.

Pearls with purr-sonality

YOU'LL ADORE THESE PRETTY KITTIES FOR A LIFETIME (OR NINE!)



Our darling drop earrings will have you looking like the cat's meow. The adorable pair is comprised of 7.5-9mm cultured freshwater pearls with diamond-accented collars in polished sterling silver. The perfect way to show off your affinity for feline friends, and great for gifting, too!

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ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

It's time to let go of deceased father's money

Dear Amy: My husband's narcissistic father died by suicide three months ago. After over 25 years dealing with his childish, out-of-proportion reactions to our lifestyle and values, we created boundaries for him within our family. It infuriated him that he could not control us with money in order to get us to adore him.

He wrote my husband out of his will and left his estate to my husband's siblings. This was a pain that you cannot know unless it is done to you.

Is it naive of us to think that his siblings would each give up a percentage of their inheritance to make my husband whole and even things out?

His father had dysfunctional relationships and rifts with all of his children at different times throughout his life.

It is not about the monetary value of the inheritance; it is about doing what is natural as siblings.

How do we have a relationship with these greedy people who continue their father's legacy of manipulation and of dangling money in exchange for adoration?

— Upset

Dear Upset: Based on what you say, these siblings are not dangling money in front of you and your husband. They are simply choosing to keep money that was left to them.

I do not think it is particularly "natural" for siblings to share an inheritance with an estranged family member, especially if your husband had completely exited from a relationship with their father. So yes, you are being naive.

She has been going into work early and coming home late. She told me her career is her priority and that our relationship would just "be there."

You might also rethink your definition of "greed," as it applies to this situation. Greed is wanting what others have. That definition might apply to you. Presumably, these siblings endured their father's mental illness and suicide from a closer perspective than your husband did, and whether their motivation was a financial or filial one — they may feel that they've already paid dearly for every penny they've inherited.

Even though it is the opposite of your stated intent, you and your husband seem to be letting his father's money control you. It's time to let go.

Having a family member die by suicide initiates a kind of grief like no other; my recommendation would be for your husband to talk this through with a counselor.

Dear Amy: I am going through my second divorce. We have only been married for seven months, and she has told me she loves me but is not "in love" with me. I don't want to lose her and our three-year commitment to each other, but she will not talk to me (or a professional) about her issues.

What do you think I can do to save my marriage or rebuild the love she once had for me? We have no biological kids together, but we have three teens in the house: her teenage daughter and my two sons.

I do not think it is particularly "natural" for siblings to share an inheritance with an estranged family member, especially if your husband had completely exited from a relationship with their father. So yes, you are being naive.

She has been going into work early and coming home late. She told me her career is her priority and that our relationship would just "be there."

She said she doesn't

want to come home, due to not feeling wanted, needed or loved. She says she feels unappreciated.

I work from home, taking care of the kids, animals, shopping, appointments, my job, the yard work, etc.

Can you help?
— S

Dear S: When your wife said she feels unwanted, unloved, etc., she is saying — something. You should encourage her to expand on all of that — and assume a very non-defensive attitude when she does. The new household might be overwhelming for her.

Some of the clues she is dropping indicate that there may be someone else in her life.

As painful as this is for you to confront, you should ask her about that, too.

Marriage counseling works best when a couple participates, but individual counseling would be helpful for you.

Dear Amy: "Expecting" said that her late-life pregnancy caused her husband to accuse her of infidelity.

Amy, in your answer, you didn't even address the fact that Expecting's husband had had a vasectomy! Hello! How could he get her pregnant?

— You Missed It

Dear Missed It: Vasectomy failure is extremely rare, but it does happen. In this case, DNA proved that "Expecting's" husband had fathered the baby.

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HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

Longtime social relationships of yours may be cooling right now, as it becomes increasingly obvious that you aren't in the same place as the other person. Though you might mourn the good parts of what you're losing, try to be aware of any new connections.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

You might find yourself wandering off the beaten path today — whether you want to or not — as you could feel at odds with authority figures no matter what you do. Don't give up! If you can, improve the lives of others around you in practical ways in spite of any conflict.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

A belief about the world that you may have been taking for granted could be restricting you, and you might finally realize this today. A loving relationship where you feel safe expressing yourself can give you space to talk about any conflict and decide how to move forward.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

A dramatic news story could pull you out of a rut today. Even a comfortable routine can feel oppressive if you have no other stimulation. Though this problem in the larger world may remind you of some personally upsetting issues.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22):

You might have recently broken away from some aspect of your background that was holding you back. While you might be tempted to give a disruptive relationship all the credit for making waves like this, don't forget to credit yourself as well.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

While you may be proud of some changes you've made to support your health lately, the people around you could be critical. They may ask questions that seem like they aren't really trying to understand, but are instead attempting to push you back to doing whatever is more common where you live.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

The financial impact of taking a risk might worry you at the moment, even if you can tell an opportunity you're considering could also help you move forward in your career. As you deliberate on your options, try to make sure you see the full picture of the situation.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

The desire to maintain a calm and collected image may conflict with your wish to deeply connect with someone else. As you can likely already see, this could potentially stir up some messy emotions. An actual conversation might surprise you by being less scary than you expected.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

A professional collaboration could push you to reveal something you'd normally keep to yourself, as you can probably recognize that the other person has a legitimate reason for needing to know. A compassionate response may shift your attitude.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen.

In 1969, author Jack Kerouac died at age 47.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1989, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light.

Morris Jr. died of inhalation anthrax.

In 2012, former senator and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern died.

In 2015, Joe Biden announced he would not be a candidate in the 2016 White House campaign, solidifying Hillary Clinton's status as the Democratic front-runner.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Oct. 21, 1797, the U.S. Navy frigate Constitution was christened in Boston's harbor.

In 1879, Thomas Edison perfected a workable electric light.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. troops captured the German city of Aachen.

In 1969, author Jack Kerouac died at age 47.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon nominated Lewis F. Powell and William H. Rehnquist to the U.S. Supreme Court.

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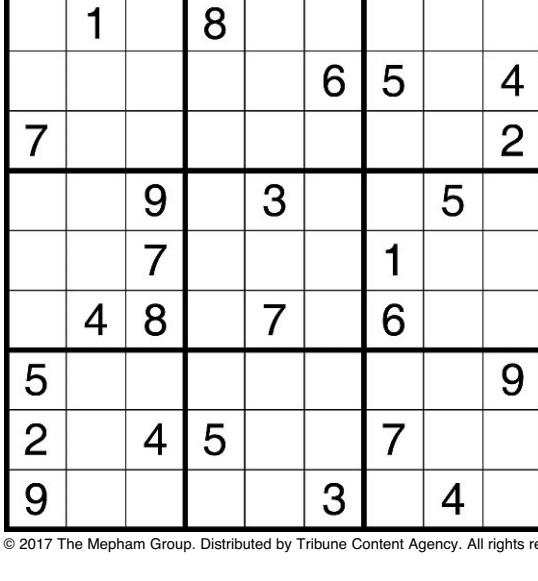
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at PlayJumble.com



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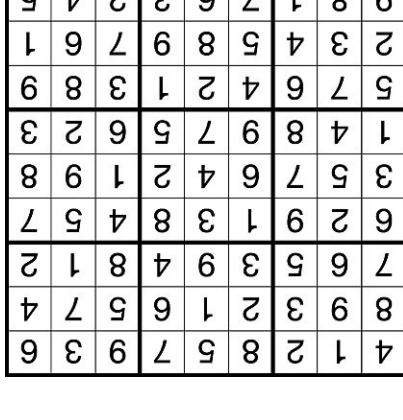
SUDOKU



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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



BOGGLE

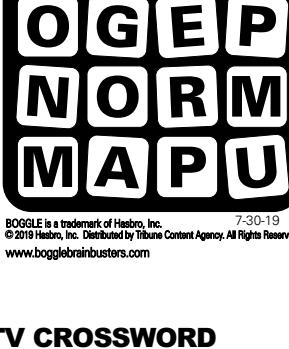


INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once. Don't forget to pay attention and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

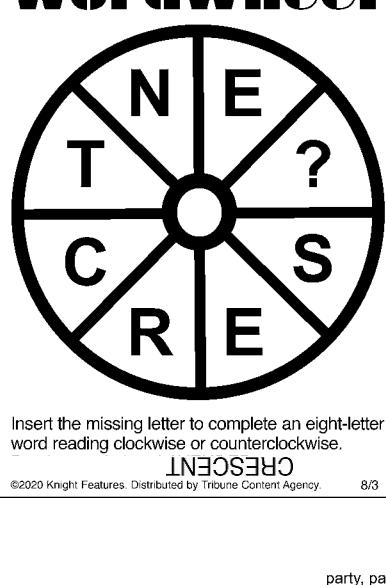
BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point 1151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points 31-60 = Garner
7 letters = 6 points 21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points 11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FOUR SIX-LETTER WORDS IN THE GRID OF LETTERS.

MAROON PURPLE SILVER ORANGE



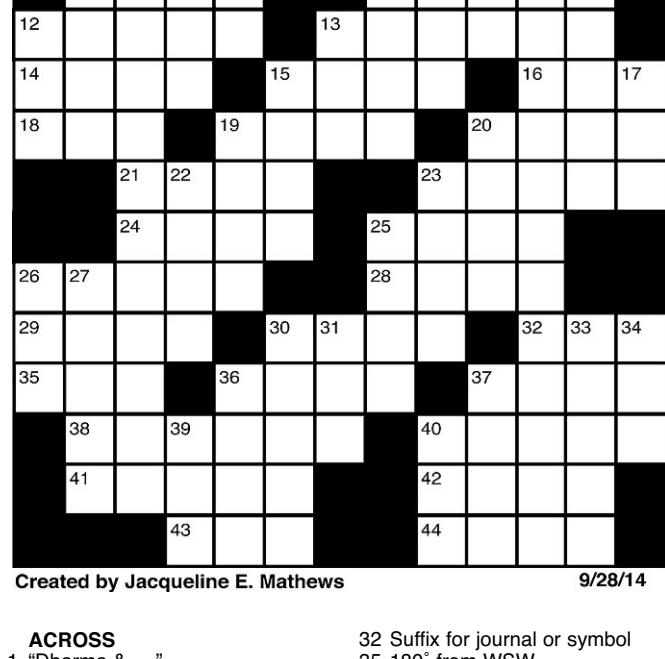
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www.bogglebrainbusters.com



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.
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TV CROSSWORD

By Jacqueline E. Mathews



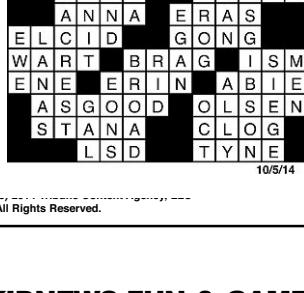
Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/28/14

ACROSS
1 "Dharma & ___"
5 Herman Munster, to Eddie
8 "Jane ___", film based on a Charlotte Brontë novel
9 Makes changes in a manuscript
12 "Places in the ___", Sally Field movie
13 Actor Ted ___ of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
14 Sothern and Jillian
15 "Star Trek: Deep Space ___"
16 Bobby of hockey fame
18 ___ "Vegas"
19 ___ and the Tramp"
20 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley
21 ___ out a living; gets by
23 Defects
24 Faris of "Mom"
25 Historical periods
26 Charlton Heston movie about a Spanish hero
28 "The ___ Show", humorous talent series of the past
29 Unwanted growth
30 Boast

32 Suffix for journal or symbol
35 180' from WSW
36 Moran or Moriarty
37 Lover of an Irish Rose
38 ___ "As It Gets"; Jack Nicholson movie
40 Ashley or Mary-Kate
41 Katie of "Castle"
42 Wooden shoe
43 Banned hallucinogen, for short
44 Tim Daly's sister

DOWN
1 Actress Davis
2 "American Idol" host
3 Makes a mistake
4 ___ Smart"
5 Actress Marshall of "Laverne & Shirley"
6 Garfield's housemate
7 "The Porky ___ Show"; cartoon series of old
10 Actor on "Criminal Minds"
11 Scatter about
12 Linden of "Barney Miller"
13 "The Karate ___"
15 Space flight agcy.
17 Many hospital workers: abbr.
19 ___ a hand; help out
20 Alda or Thicke
22 Make a sweater
23 Kermit, for one
25 Actor Richard ___
26 Female sheep
27 Actress Turner and her namesakes
30 Wide
31 Get ___ of; eliminate
33 Prolonged attack
34 ___ "Behaving Badly"
36 Very long periods
37 ___ McNeal"
39 Four qts.
40 Fall month: abbr.



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KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: party, party!

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off as you find them.

F P R E S E N T S E K K I N V I T E
F U B A N D S S E R T I A W A E U Y
R U Q S O E N T R É E P M P N V D A
I Q G F I S C R D B P A E I B S D H
E S O S T S A G B L R R W J M E L T
N O L E A E K X A Q I H L F O U G K
D I E L R R E U U T E F I N K N X R
S W T D O T S E I O C C A S I O N E
O F O N C E E F C E L E B R A T E C
Y O H A E G L A S S E S E S T A B L E
N R D C D K T R S L S H S E T A L P
W K L E X Q E P I I T Y S Q P O L T
Q A B E Q E W N Y A X F A M I L Y I
L Q I D V S Q O G T H A L L R K M O
B O T T L E J O H K E C T U N E U N
E T A D E N R P O C C H C E E P S O
D A N C E R P S S O U P C N E N I L
B A L L O O N S T C A U M S K R C D

APERITIF DATE HALL RECEPTION
APPLAUSE DECORATIONS HOST REVELRY
BALLOONS DESSERT HOTEL SOUP
BAND ENJOY INVITE SPEECH
BOTTLE ENTRÉE KNIFE SPOON
CAKE FAMILY LINEN TABLE
CANDLES FOOD MARQUEE MUSIC TAXIS
CELEBRATE FORK FRIENDS OCCASION TUNE
CHAIR COCKTAILS GATHERING PLATES WAITER
DANCE DANCE GLASSES PRESENTS WINE

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JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOSTP

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LEERD

PACTEC

DARIHO

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Wasn't this supposed to be your shoot? I invented that look! She's got to go.

MOSTP

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LEERD

PACTEC

DARIHO

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

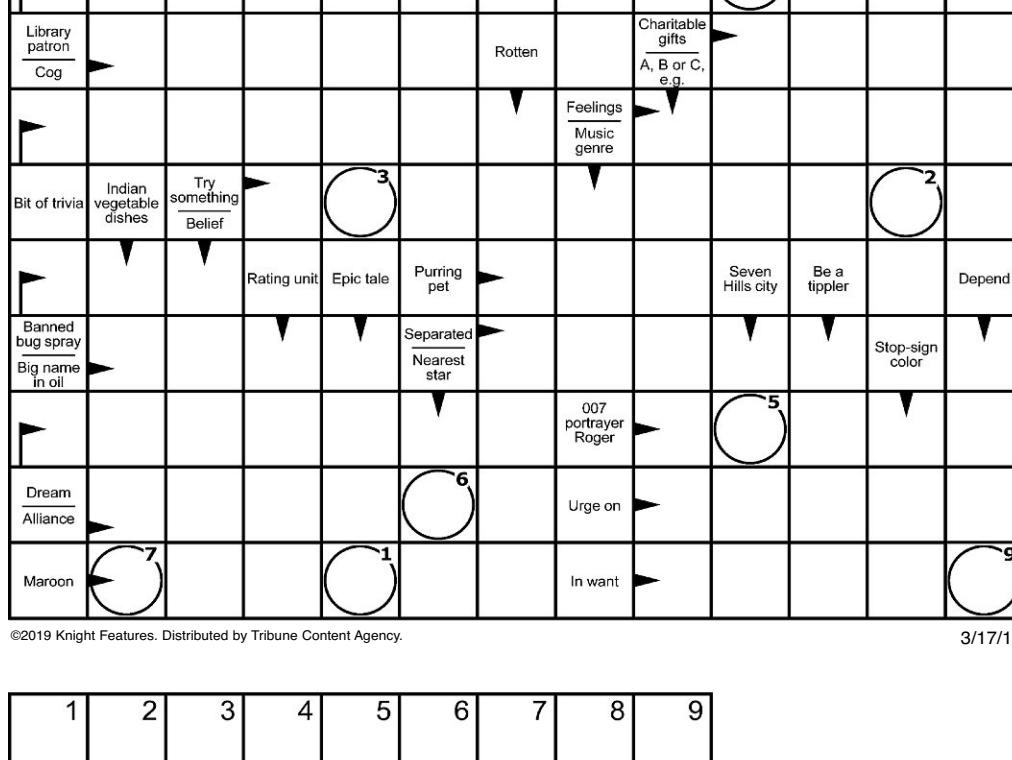
Jumbles: STOMP ELDER ACCEPT HAIRDO

Answer: The fashion model didn't like her new competition and thought she — POSED A THREAT

A N X I O U S L Y

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

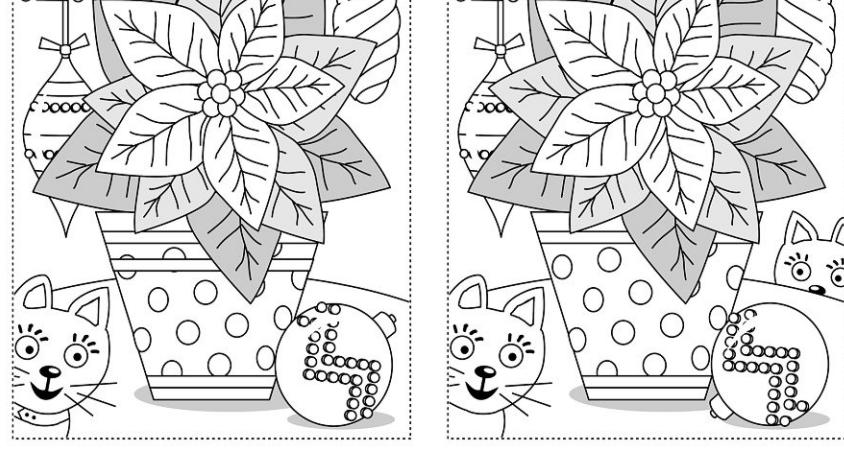


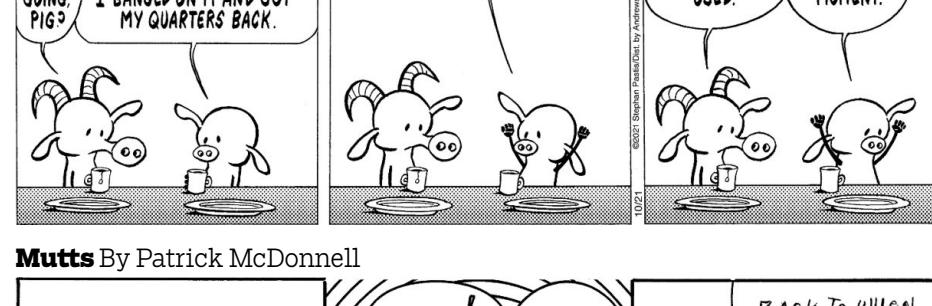
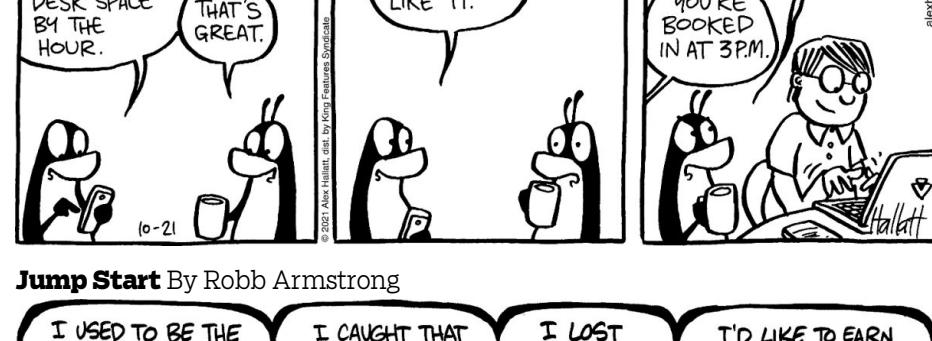
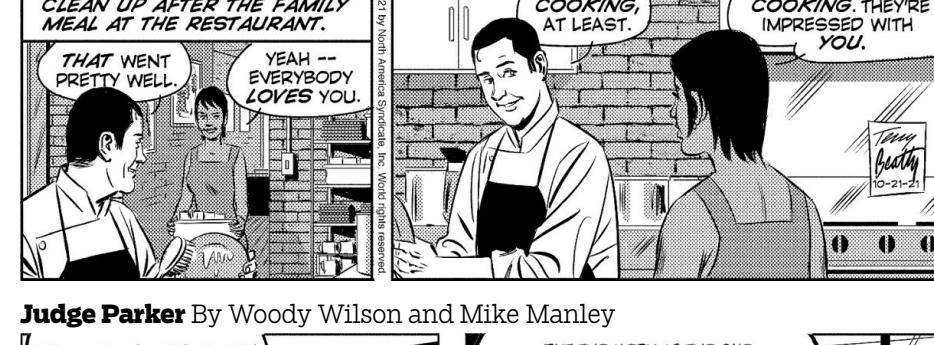
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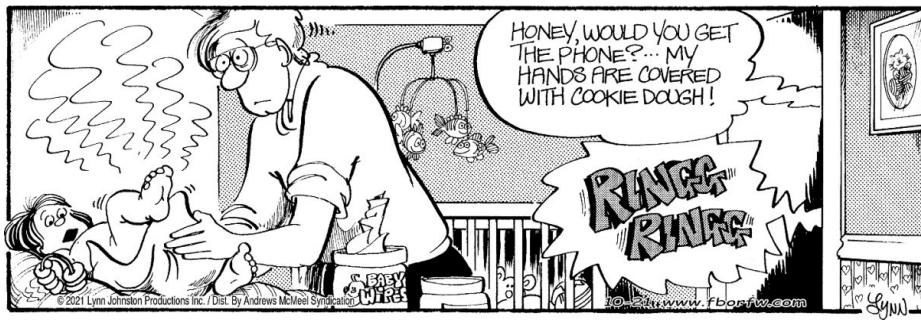
3/17/19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Find 10 differences.



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

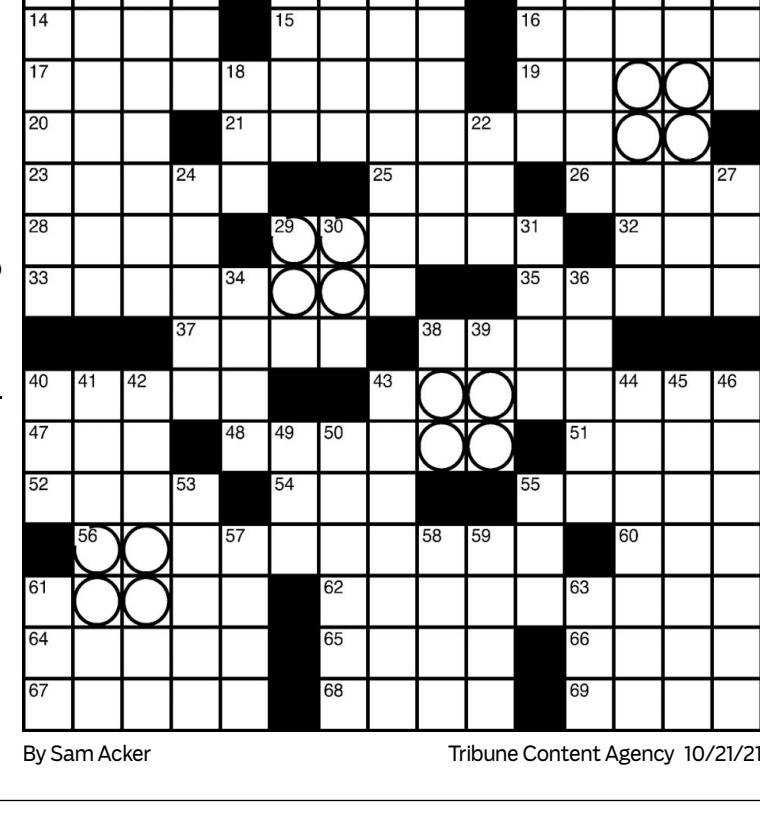
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Wildfire prevention ads, e.g.: Abbr. 62 Square, for one 8 She's behind Harris in the current presidential line
5 Short video 64 Place for games 38 63-Down genre
9 Valentino classic, with "The" 65 Do some craftwork 39 It's just a number, they say
14 Certain sax 66 Troubles 40 Home of the NHL's Blues
15 Cocktail garnish 67 CEO's aides 41 Pizza topping
16 Redhead of Bedrock 68 Italian pronoun 42 Fascinates
17 Top prize 69 Words in many law firm names 43 Scrubby wastelands
19 Highly skilled 22 Pac-12's Beavers 44 62-Across, for one
20 Lab eggs 24 Where Musk is CEO 45 Sent a note to, nowadays
21 Stereotypical baby "words" 27 Owns 46 Blue state
23 Minimal damage 29 Gadot of "Wonder Woman" 49 Little newt
25 Mag. edition 30 Org. concerned with PCB's 50 Boxer/actor
26 Small but distinctive amount 31 Mail in a box 51 Mickey
28 Mandatory bet 34 Pixar film in which Paul Newman voiced 53 Secret
29 Bar: Apple support service 36 Jung's inner self 55 Spanish Mrs.
32 CIA relative 59 Jazz diva Jones 57 Flight sked info
33 Homer's "Sailing a Dory," e.g. 61 Sheepish remark? 58 TV series for 18 seasons
35 Insults, with "on" 63 "Straight Outta Compton" group

Down

1 Temples with up-curved roofs 2 Resident of Ljubljana, probably 22 Pac-12's Beavers
2 Minimal damage 3 Margaret Mitchell's birthplace 24 Where Musk is CEO
25 Mag. edition 4 Gardener's purchase 27 Owns
26 Small but distinctive amount 5 Egyptian queen, familiarly 29 Gadot of "Wonder Woman"
28 Mandatory bet 6 Venetian resort 30 Org. concerned with PCB's
29 Bar: Apple support service 7 "Just think!" 31 Mail in a box
32 CIA relative 33 Homer's "Sailing a Dory," e.g. 34 Pixar film in which Paul Newman voiced a Hudson Hornet
33 Homer's "Sailing a Dory," e.g. 35 Jung's inner self 36 Jung's inner self



By Sam Acker

Tribune Content Agency 10/21/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♦ Q 10 9 2
♥ K 6
♦ J 10 5
♣ A Q 7 4

WEST

♠ 8 5 3
♥ Q 10 4 2
♦ K 9 6 4 2
♣ J

EAST

♦ 6
♥ 9 8 7 3
♦ 8 7 3
♣ K 9 8 6 5

SOUTH

♠ A K J 7 4
♥ A J 5
♦ A Q
♣ 10 3 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

The hand is quicker than the eye

Although there is no real magic in bridge, the nature of the game is such that you can sometimes cause a seemingly certain loser to disappear.

Take this deal where it appears you must lose a diamond and a club and go down one in six spades. Yet the fact is that if you play your cards correctly — and in a perfectly logical manner — you make the slam.

West leads the jack of clubs, which looks very much like a singleton, since you've got the ten in your hand. You therefore go up with the ace and draw three rounds of trump, ending in the North hand.

You next lead the four of clubs from dummy. If East goes up with the king, establishing your ten and dummy's queen in the process, the battle is immediately over. In that case you would eventually discard your queen of diamonds on the queen of clubs.

So let's say East plays low on the club lead from dummy, and that you win the

trick with your ten. You still have a club loser, and it might therefore appear that the outcome now depends on a successful diamond finesse.

But this is not true. As a matter of fact, at this point you should realize that the slam is in the bag regardless of where the king of diamonds is located.

Accordingly, you lead a heart to the king and return a low diamond from dummy. After East follows low, you finesse the queen.

If the finesse wins, you have 12 tricks then and there, but even if the finesse loses, you still have 12 tricks.

This is because whatever West returns, you can later get rid of your club loser on dummy's jack of diamonds.

So, regardless of how East-West defend, there's no way they can stop one of your losers from simply vanishing into thin air.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.**JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

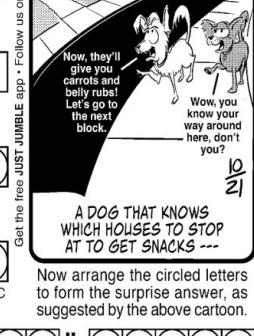
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VRWEA

AHTSS

THYMHR

BARTIB



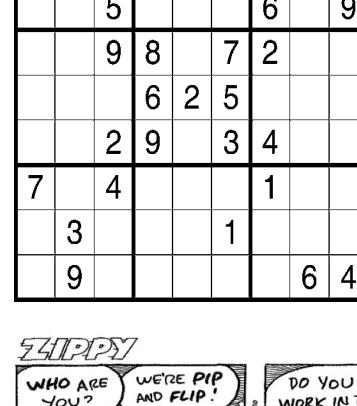
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Answer: The quality construction of the 200-year-old bookcase gave it a — LONG SHELF LIFE

TODAY'S SUDOKU**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE**Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

JIBS BOSE BATS

ECASH UNIT ANAL

THREADBARE ITSY

SIB GOBI SLIT

ARES GARDENSHED

MODERN UAL EDU

ICE NEAREST PROF

HILT ROASTER

ICE BOS GISTS

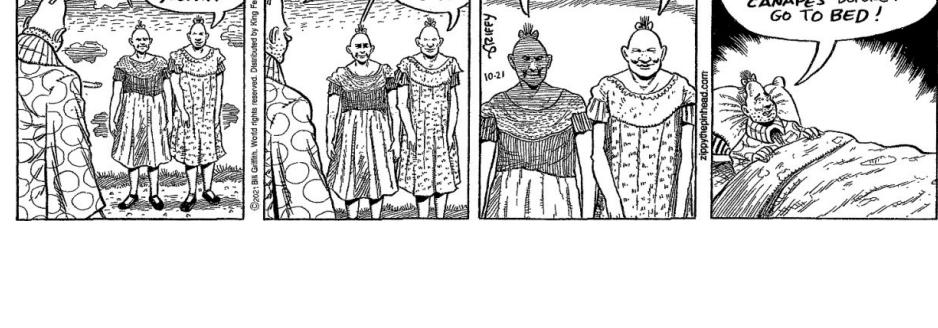
COMIC STRIP LAIT

RENE ORES FRO

FINS BANANAPEEL

ACTE BRET COCOA

BEST SMEE DOFF

**ZIPPY**

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ZIPPY: © 2021 King Features Syndicate

DREAM JOBS: © 2021 King Features Syndicate

BILL GRIFFITH: © 2021 King Features Syndicate

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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER BREAKDOWN

Hurley sees big things from Johnson, Hawkins

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

Dan Hurley is as comfortable and confident as he has been since coming to UConn in 2018. As the season draws near the Huskies men's basketball coach knows his roster — an experienced group — and his players know him.

"We've got a lot of quality that has been part of a strong culture, a winning culture now, a professional culture," Hurley told the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday at its breakfast meeting. "You're always anxious and a little bit nervous as a coach knowing who your team is before real game competition, but since I've been at UConn this is the most

"We have an older, mature team that understands what it takes."

— Dan Hurley, UConn coach

confident and relaxed that I've felt going into a year."

An October address to the Middlesex Chamber is an annual tradition for UConn coaches dating back to Jim Calhoun. "A real signal that winter's coming and it's our time to perform," Hurley said.

As is his custom, Hurley took the occasion to break down his roster, player by player, includ-

ing a heralded foursome of freshmen. "Some days they play like five stars," he said. "Some days maybe three stars. So it does come out to a four."

And in a week in which the Huskies were ranked 24th in the AP preseason poll and No. 2 in the Big East coaches' poll, he weighed in on his four most experienced players returning from the NCAA Tournament experience of last March.

"We have an older, mature team that understands what it takes," Hurley said.

Here is Hurley's look at the 2021-22 UConn men's basketball team:

Turn to UConn, Page 4



Dan Hurley is comfortable with his team, relaxed, confident and expecting big things from a roster full of veterans, with four highly touted newcomers.

DAVID BUTLER II/USA TODAY SPORTS

KNICKS

Wicked Garden

Knicks hope to keep making MSG a tougher place to play

By Stefan Bondy
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — With hopes and excitement attached to a winning Knicks team, the league is starting to remember the capabilities of The Garden.

The annual NBA GM survey pegged MSG as holding the third-best homecourt advantage, behind two locations (Denver and Utah) that benefit much more from high altitudes than crowd energy.

The MSG fans showed up and out in the playoffs in May, then turned the preseas- on finale into a raucous atmosphere. Julius Randle is predicting bedlam for Wednesday after MSG was empty most of last season because of the pandemic.

"Chaos. Definitely expecting chaos," Randle said. "The city is excited to get basketball back. We're excited. It'll be fun."

As for team news in advance of the opener vs. the Celtics, Mitchell Robinson, who hadn't played a game in seven months, now might start against Boston.

Tom Thibodeau teased the idea after Nerlens Noel was again held out of practice Tuesday because of knee soreness. Taj Gibson was considered the obvious replacement for Noel since he started every preseas- on game, but Thibodeau quickly pivoted the answer to Robinson.

"I want to see where Mitch is," the coach said. "Hopefully Mitch will be ready and Taj is always ready, whatever we ask him, whether it's start, come off the bench, be situational."

"That's the great value in Taj. Mitch is really coming on so we're very pleased with his process."

Robinson suffered a broken foot in March and his recovery extended deep into training camp. He finally returned in the preseas- on finale and fought through exhaustion while logging an encouraging 27 minutes.

Noel's knee soreness, mean- while, has been worse than anticipated. He missed the entire preseas- on and was officially ruled "doubtful" for Wednesday against the Celtics.

Earlier in training camp, the 27-year-old returned to prac- tice and was on track to playing sooner than the opener.

ALCS GAME 5 ASTROS 9, RED SOX 1



Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale reacts after giving up a two-run double to the Astros' Yordan Alvarez during the sixth inning in Game 5 of the ALCS on Wednesday in Boston. The Red Sox lost 9-1 and now trail the best-of-seven series 3-2. DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Shell-shocked

Astros overwhelm Sale, Sox to move within 1 win of AL pennant

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press

BOSTON — Framer Valdez was perfect through four, took a two-hit shutout into the seventh

and became the first pitcher in the 2021 postseason to finish eight innings on Wednesday as the Houston Astros beat Boston 9-1 in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series and moved one win from a second trip to the World Series in three years.

Yordan Alvarez had three hits and three RBIs for Houston, which can clinch its third pennant in five

Inside Red Sox notes. Page 2

years with a victory in Game 6 at home on Friday night. The Red Sox need a win to force a deciding seventh game on Saturday.

One day after the Astros scored seven runs to break a ninth-inning tie, they hung another crooked

number on the Fenway Park scoreboard, chasing Chris Sale while scoring five runs in the sixth. Alvarez, who homered in the second and singled in the fourth, had a two-run double to break things open.

That was plenty for Valdez, who extended the staff's shut-

Turn to ALCS, Page 2

YANKEES

Not thinking of wholesale change, but improvement necessary

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Back in 2017, Brian Cashman decided that his group of young, talented players who had surprised the baseball world by coming within one win of a World Series needed a new voice in the clubhouse.

The Yankees general manager, seeing the window on the "Baby Bombers" open, let Joe Girardi go

and brought in Aaron Boone to be a manager who could speak the language of analytics while still bringing experience on the field.

It was at that time, on the verge of a new era in Yankees baseball anchored by Aaron Judge, Gary Sanchez and Luis Severino, that managing partner Hal Steinbrenner also extended Cashman's contract. His deal as GM and senior vice president runs through next year.

Since then, the Baby Bombers have grown up and are in the peak of their baseball careers. But in the last four years they've never come as close as they did in 2017.

Boone is Cashman's hire and it's a double-down on the direction this front office has been going for the past four years. After 2021, watching other teams adapt, adjust and zoom past the Yankees, the question Cashman needs to answer with this 2022 team is if the

Bombers are heading in the right direction.

It's obvious something needs to change.

"As a team and as an organization, we must grow, evolve and improve," Steinbrenner said in a statement announcing Boone's return, adding he looked forward to Boone's input on that.

"We need to get better, period."

Turn to Yankees, Page 2



Safety Tip of the Day

If you have a teen driver - tell them to buckle up every time they get behind the wheel. In fatal crashes of 16-20 year olds, 60% were unbuckled at the time of the crash.



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SPORTS**UP NEXT**

UConn football: Middle Tennessee, Friday, 6 p.m.
Patriots: Jets, Sunday, 1 p.m.

Giants: Panthers, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: at Patriots, Sunday, 1 p.m.

Red Sox: AL
 Championship Series: at Astros (Game 6), Friday, 8 p.m.; at Astros (Game 7, if necessary), Saturday, 8 p.m.

Celtics: Raptors, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; at Rockets, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Hornets, Monday, 7 p.m.

Knicks: at Magic, Friday, 7 p.m.; Magic, Sunday, 7 p.m.; 76ers, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Nets: at 76ers, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Hornets, Sunday, 4 p.m.; Wizards, Monday, 7:30 p.m.

UConn hockey: at Northeastern, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Dartmouth, Oct. 30, 8 p.m.; at Maine, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Bruins: at Sabres, Friday, 7 p.m.; Sharks, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Panthers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Rangers: at Predators, Thursday, 8 p.m.; at Senators, Saturday, 1 p.m.; Flames, Monday, 7 p.m.

Wolf Pack: at W-B/Scranton, Friday, 7 p.m.; at Lehigh Valley, Saturday, 7 p.m.; W-B/Scranton, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.

Hartford Athletic: Charlotte, Friday, 7 p.m.; Charleston, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; at Pittsburgh, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO**BASEBALL**

8 p.m.: Atlanta Braves at Los Angeles Dodgers. (Live) TBS

BASKETBALL

7:30 p.m.: Dallas Mavericks at Atlanta Hawks. (Live) TNT

10 p.m.: Los Angeles Clippers at Golden State Warriors. (Live) TNT

FOOTBALL

7 a.m.: Iowa State at Kansas State. (Taped) ESPNU

7:30 p.m.: Florida Atlantic at Charlotte. (Live) CBSNN

7:30 p.m.: Tulane at SMU. (Live) ESPN

7:30 p.m.: Louisiana at Arkansas State. (Live) ESPN

8 p.m.: Denver Broncos at Cleveland Browns. (Live) FOX

8:30 p.m.: Denver Broncos at Cleveland Browns. (Live) NFL

9:30 p.m.: Kentucky at Georgia. (Taped) SEC

11 p.m.: San Jose State at UNLV. (Live) CBSNN

12:30 a.m.: Tulane at SMU. (Taped) ESPN

3 a.m.: Miami at NC State. (Taped) ACC

GOLF

7:30 a.m.: Mallorca Golf Open, First Round. (Live) GOLF

2 p.m.: BMW Ladies Championship, First Round. (Same-day Tape) GOLF

11:30 p.m.: ZOZO Championship, Second Round. (Live) GOLF

GYMNASTICS

7 p.m.: FIG World Championships. (Same-day Tape) NBCSPN

HOCKEY

12 p.m.: St. Louis Blues at Vegas Golden Knights. (Taped) NHL

2 p.m.: Boston Bruins at Philadelphia Flyers. (Taped) NHL

7:30 p.m.: Calgary Flames at Detroit Red Wings. (Live) SPRTNET

8 p.m.: New York Rangers at Nashville Predators. (Live) MSG

10:30 p.m.: Edmonton Oilers at Arizona Coyotes. (Live) SPRTNET

SOCCER

5 p.m.: Womens College: Florida at Georgia. (Live) ESPN

7 p.m.: Womens College: Texas A&M at Mississippi State. (Live) SEC

7 p.m.: Womens College: Penn State at Michigan. (Live) FS1

8 p.m.: Womens College: Florida State at North Carolina. (Live) ACC

8 p.m.: Womens Soccer International Friendly - U.S. vs South Korea. (Live) ESPN2

VOLLEYBALL

4 p.m.: Womens College: Miami at Notre Dame. (Taped) ACC

WINTER SPORTS

11 a.m.: Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling Masters: Draw 10. (Live) SPRTNET

3 p.m.: Pinty's Grand Slam of Curling Masters: Draw 11. (Live) SPRTNET



Red Sox starting pitcher Nathan Eovaldi throws against the Astros during the ninth inning in Game 4 of the ALCS on Tuesday in Boston. **WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP**

RED SOX NOTES

Eovaldi still on track to start in Game 6

By Peter Abraham
 Boston Globe

BOSTON — Nate Eovaldi remains on track to start Game 6 of the ALCS in Houston on Friday night after throwing 24 pitches in the ninth inning of Game 4 on Tuesday.

Red Sox manager Alex Cora called on Eovaldi in a 2-2 game, hoping his ace would hold the Astros there. But he allowed a two-out RBI single by Jason Castro, which opened the gates for a seven-run inning and a 9-2 loss.

Cora would prefer not to use his starters in relief unless it's with a chance to close out the game. But Tuesday was a perfect spot, in his estimation.

"It's different on the road than at home," Cora said Wednesday. "Just get a shutdown inning in the ninth and give us a chance to win the game."

It nearly worked, but Eovaldi didn't get the third out.

"He was a little bit off, too, with his mechanics, which is something that we noticed

right away," Cora said. "Obviously, you think about the present, but you think about Game 6, and then you have to be very careful with the way you treat him."

"At the end he made pitches. He did make pitches, and it just didn't work out."

Cora said every starter is different in terms of how long he might use them in relief between starts. But Eovaldi can handle the extra work.

"Athletic-wise he is different than all of them," the manager said. "It's funny because his history will tell you differently — because of all the injuries. But he just is at another level."

Setback for Meyers: The Astros hoped to have center fielder Jake Meyers back for this series after he bruised his left shoulder in the Division Series. But manager Dusty Baker said Meyers had a setback.

"He has been trying to test it and test it," Baker said. "So he might be further away than he was a couple of days ago. So, no, he is not any closer."

"He wasn't good at all. He

was actually worse ... We'll have to make a determination here soon."

Because it's a pre-existing injury, the Astros cannot drop Meyers off the roster and add another player.

Greater appreciation: Like all of the Red Sox, lefthanded reliever Josh Taylor has embraced the atmosphere at Fenway Park for the six home games in the playoffs.

"People don't realize how big the crowd impacts a game, whether they're cheering for you or against you. You feel it, and it either motivates you or gets to you. You have to learn to pitch with it," he said.

"Our fan base has been amazing this year, and they've been great in the postseason. We just need to carry that on."

After playing in front of empty seats last season, the impact this season has been even more noticeable.

"It's incredible. They bring life to the stadium," Taylor said. "It's hard to get the adrenaline going in games when you can hear crickets."

ALCS

from Page 1

out streak to 14 straight innings before Rafael Devers homered with one out in the seventh — one of just three hits for Boston. The left-hander departed after retiring the Red Sox in order in the eighth — the longest outing for any starter this postseason.

In all, Valdez gave up one run on three hits, one walk and a hit batter, striking out five. He was also the first opposing pitcher to last eight innings in a postseason start at Fenway since Cleveland's Charles Nagy went eight in the 1998 Division Series.

Ryne Stanek pitched a perfect ninth while the rest of Houston's relievers rested. Astros starters had not lasted three innings all series, pitching to a 18.90 ERA in the first four games and giving up 10 homers — including a record three grand slams.

Valdez was not much better, allowing two earned runs in 2 1/2 innings in Game 1.

But retired the first 12 batters on Wednesday — eight on grounders, four on strikeouts. Devers singled to lead off the fifth, then Valdez bounced the next pitch off J.D. Martinez's leg. The Astros escaped when Hunter Renfroe grounded into a double play and Alex Verdugo bounded out to first.

Sale started almost as well, allowing just two hits — both to Alvarez — in his first five innings. But he walked Jose Altuve to start the sixth, then Michael Brantley nubbed one toward third.

Devers fielded it and made the throw in time but Schwarber dropped it at first; after sliding into second, Altuve popped up and took off for third, which was uncovered.

Brantley moved up to second on a groundout to the pitcher, then Alvarez doubled to left, scoring two to make it 3-0 and chasing Sale. Ryan Brasier struck out Carlos Correa before giving up an RBI double to Yuli Gurriel and a two-run single to Jose Siri that made it 6-0.

Brantley added an RBI single in the seventh, and Gurriel singled in two more in the ninth.

Sale was charged with four runs — two earned — on three hits and two walks, striking out seven in 5 1/2 innings.

The Red Sox had won seven straight postseason games at home — dating to the 2018 ALCS — before blowing an eighth-inning lead on Tuesday night. They had never lost back-to-back postseason games under manager Alex Cora.

ALCS GAME 4 LATE TUESDAY

Astros awaken, score 7 in 9th to beat Boston 9-2

Associated Press

BOSTON — Six outs from falling behind 3-1 in the American League Championship Series and facing elimination in Game 5 in Boston — where the Red Sox had yet to lose this postseason — the Houston Astros offense awakened.

After tying the score in the eighth inning on Jose Altuve's solo homer, the Astros bullied the Boston bullpen for seven runs in the ninth to win 9-2 on Tuesday night and even the best-of-seven playoff at two games apiece.

"This is one of the great things about baseball," said the Astros' 72-year-old manager, Dusty Baker. "When you're dead in the water and things aren't going good, and then all of a sudden, boom, boom, boom — you got seven runs."

"That's what they've been doing to us this whole series. And we're capable of doing that as well."

Jason Castro looked off a potential third strike from Nathan Eovaldi before driving in watch-tapping Carlos Correa with the go-ahead run in the ninth, then the AL West champions kept on scoring to guarantee themselves at least one more game back home.

Game 5 was Wednesday in Boston, with Games 6 and 7 back in Houston on Friday and, if necessary, Saturday. The Red Sox are 5-0 after playoff losses under manager Alex Cora.

In a series that had been dominated by offense — especially Boston's, which has hit 10 homers in the series, including a record-setting three grand slams to turn Games 2 and 3 into routs — the teams traded first-inning home runs.

Alex Bregman hit a solo shot into the Green Monster seats, then Xander Bogaerts topped it with a towering, two-run drive onto Lansdowne Street in the bottom half to give the Red Sox a 2-1 lead.

Then, the pitchers took over.

It was still 2-1 when Altuve homered against Garrett Whitlock to tie it in the eighth.

It was his 21st career postseason home run, breaking a tie with Derek Jeter for third-most in baseball history. Eovaldi, making his first relief appearance since he was coming back from an injury two years ago, came on for the ninth and gave up Correa's leadoff double.

METS

Now that big 3 execs are out, club figuring out where to go from here

By Deesha Thosar

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Give credit to the Mets for shooting for the moon in their initial search for a head of baseball operations.

They tried to land top dogs in Theo Epstein, Billy Beane and David Stearns to lead the Mets front office, an incomplete group in desperate need of direction and stability. All three top candidates, except for maybe Beane, were considered long shots. Under the new regime of owner Steve Cohen and team president Sandy Alderson, it was at least plausible, if far-fetched, that the Mets could secure one of the three executives.

Money, of course, can now be used as a powerful tool of persuasion thanks to Cohen's billions.

A few years ago, the Mets fan base would've howled in laughter at the idea of the Wilpons shooting for the moon. Quite simply, the previous ownership did not set such high standards, and that the new Mets brass is going for it is refreshing. While the optimism in landing one of the three big fish was encouraging, the result was unchanged.

The Mets checked in with Epstein, Beane, and Stearns to begin their busy offseason, and all three execs are officially out. Now the Mets are broadening their list of candidates for the job, and likely switching their strategy, too.

Cohen and Alderson went into October with the same objective they had last year: hire a president of baseball ops. Their best-case scenario was plucking someone with experience and credibility. Then that individual would have the autonomy to fill out the rest of the front office, manager and coaching staff. With skipper Luis Rojas ousted from the helm and six coaches given notice to seek other places of employment, the Mets are in a prime posi-

tion to start anew.

Within the industry and its limited pool of ready-made and proven POBO candidates, the Mets may now have to shift to a different front-office structure than they previously had in mind. Much like last year, when Cohen and Alderson could not land a POBO, they pivoted to hiring a GM and assistant GM. With the Mets unable to land one of the big three candidates, we may see a repeat of that format simply because, even though it's only October, the clock is ticking.

Major League Baseball's annual GM meetings will take place on Nov. 9, and the Mets would like to have a unit in place by then. That leaves Cohen and Alderson less than two weeks to conduct their interviews and start making hires. This offseason is also different in that the league's Collective Bargaining Agreement expires Dec. 1. Some teams in need of drastic changes — certainly including the Mets — will want to get a head start and be aggressive before a potential lockout.

If the Mets do pivot to a GM/asst. GM structure again, or even if they promote an existing GM

from an opposing team to their POBO role, will the fan base be OK with another greenhorn? Will Cohen? Does Alderson have the bandwidth to engage in double duty again, helping a new GM transition to the role?

Carrasco has surgery:

Carlos Carrasco underwent surgery Tuesday to remove a bone fragment from his right elbow, the Mets announced on Wednesday.</p

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—
Brooklyn	0	1	.000	½
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Charlotte	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	0	.000	—
Orlando	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—
CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	1	0	.100	—
Milwaukee	1	0	.100	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	½
Indiana	0	0	.000	½
Detroit	0	1	.000	1
WESTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	PCT	GB
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	0	0	.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Memphis	0	0	.000	—
New Orleans	0	0	.000	—
San Antonio	0	0	.000	—
NORTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	1	0	.100	—
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	½
Phoenix	0	0	.000	½
Sacramento	0	0	.000	½
L.A. Lakers	0	1	.000	1

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 94, Detroit 88
Indiana at Charlotte, late
Boston at New York, late
Washington at Toronto, late
Cleveland at Memphis, late
Houston at Minnesota, late
Philadelphia at New Orleans, late
Orlando at San Antonio, late
Oklahoma City at Utah, late
Denver at Phoenix, late
Sacramento at Portland, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Dallas at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Milwaukee at Miami, 8p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Milwaukee 127, Brooklyn 104
Golden State 121, L.A. Lakers 114

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE				
EAST	W	L	T	PCT
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667
New England	2	4	0	.333
NY. Jets	1	4	0	.200
Miami	1	5	0	.167
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Tennessee	4	2	0	.667
Indianapolis	2	4	0	.333
Houston	1	5	0	.167
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Baltimore	5	1	0	.833
Cincinnati	4	2	0	.667
Cleveland	3	3	0	.500
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500
WEST	W	L	T	PCT
L.A. Chargers	4	2	0	.667
Las Vegas	4	2	0	.667
Denver	3	3	0	.500
Kansas City	3	3	0	.500

NATIONAL CONFERENCE				
EAST	W	L	T	PCT
Dallas	5	1	0	.833
Philadelphia	2	4	0	.333
Washington	2	4	0	.333
NY. Giants	1	5	0	.167
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT
Tampa Bay	5	1	0	.833
New Orleans	3	2	0	.600
Carolina	3	3	0	.500
Atlanta	2	3	0	.400
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT
Green Bay	5	1	0	.833
Chicago	3	3	0	.500
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500
Detroit	0	6	0	.000
WEST	W	L	T	PCT
Arizona	6	0	1	.000
L.A. Rams	5	1	0	.833
San Francisco	2	3	0	.400
Seattle	2	4	0	.333

WEEK 7

THURSDAY'S GAME

Denver at Cleveland, 8:20p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Atlanta at Miami, 1p.m.

Carolina at N.Y. Giants, 1p.m.

Cincinnati at Baltimore, 1p.m.

Kansas City at Tennessee, 1p.m.

N.Y. Jets at New England, 1p.m.

Washington at Green Bay, 1p.m.

Detroit at L.A. Rams, 4:05p.m.

Philadelphia at Las Vegas, 4:05p.m.

Chicago at Tampa Bay, 4:25p.m.

Houston at Arizona, 4:25p.m.

Indianapolis at San Francisco, 8:20p.m.

MONDAY'S GAME

New Orleans at Seattle, 8:15p.m.

Off: Buffalo, Dallas, Jacksonville,

L.A. Chargers, Pittsburgh, Minnesota

TENNIS

WTB KREMLIN CUP

Wednesday at Olympic Stadium; Moscow; indoors; harcourt

MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND 16

#3 Karen Khachanov d.

James Duckworth, 3-6, 6-1.

#6 Marin Cilic d. Tommy Paul, 7-5, 6-3.

John Millman d. Ilya Marchenko, 6-1, 5-7, 6-4.

MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND 32

Federico Coria d. Alibek Kachmazov, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

Mackenzie McDonald d.

Yoshihito Nishioka, 6-3, 6-4.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND 16

#1 Aryna Sabalenka d.

Ajla Tomljanovic, 7-6(2), 4-6, 6-1.

#2 Garbine Muguruza d.

Tereza Martincova, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

#4 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova d.

Bernarda Pera, 6-2, 7-5.

Ekatrina Alexandrova d.

Anhelina Kalinina, 6-4, 6-1.

ATP EUROPEAN OPEN

Wednesday at Lotto Arena; Antwerp, Belgium; indoors; hardcourt

MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND 16

#1 Jan-Lennard Struff d. Lorenzo Musetti, 7-5, 6-2.

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina d.

#3 Cristian Garin, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Arthur Rinderknech d.

#8 Dusan Lajovic, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Jenson Brooksby d.

Botic van de Zandschulp, 6-2, 6-0.

WTA TENERIFE LADIES OPEN

Wednesday in Tenerife, Spain; out-hard

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND 16

Maria Camila Osorio Serrano d.

#1 Elina Svitolina, 6-3, 6-2.

Ana Karolina Schmiedlova d.

Jaqueline Cristian, 6-2, 7-5.

Ann Li d. Varvara Gracheva, 6-4, 6-2.

Alize Cornet d. Xinyu Wang, 6-1, 6-7(5), 4-1, ret.

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2 Ryan Blaney 12 Ford

3 Brad Keselowski 2 Ford

4 Kyle Busch 18 Toyota

5 Chase Elliott 9 Chevrolet

6 Denny Hamlin 11 Toyota

7 Martin Truex, Jr. 19 Toyota

8 Joey Logano 22 Ford

9 William Byron 24 Chevrolet

10 Christopher Bell 20 Toyota

11 Kevin Harvick 4 Ford

12 Tyler Reddick 8 Chevrolet

13 Kurt Busch 1 Chevrolet

14 Austin Dillon 3 Chevrolet

15 Matt DiBenedetto 21 Ford

16 Daniel Suarez 99 Chevrolet

NHL

FOOTBALL
Friday: vs. Middle Tennessee
6 p.m., CBS Sports Network

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Tyler Polley and Isaiah Whaley are back for fifth seasons at UConn. STEPHEN DUNN

UConn

from Page 1

R.J. Cole, G, Gr.

"Huge year for R.J. Last year he had a really good year considering it [was] his first year eligible moving up from a mid-major [Howard] to the top of the food chain without the runway of a nonconference schedule, a full summer or preseason. It led to some inconsistency. And being in the backcourt with James Bouknight maybe forced R.J. into being a little more of a game manager, and he didn't necessarily play to all his aggressiveness and abilities as an offensive player. He's going to have a lot more of a chance to hunt his offense. We need to go from 12 [point] and four [assists] to 16 and 5 1/2 or six assists."

Tyler Polley, F, Gr.

"We think we're going to get a better version of Tyler this year. That second year back from an ACL surgery, players that deal with that all see a spike in their play. Tyler's shooting, length and size as a defender make him an incredibly valuable part of the program. For us to take the next step we need more production on the backboard."

Isaiah Whaley, F, Gr.

"He's become such a program and fan favorite. I don't know that he statistically blows you away with any of his numbers, maybe as an offensive rebounder, but his overall value in terms of the high energy and motor that he plays with ... he's absolutely disruptive defensively in the ball-screen game. What he does is very rare, and ball-screen defense is such a huge part of basketball now. We need him to make 3s, especially when he plays the four spot next to Adama Sanogo."

Tyrese Martin, G, Sr.

"A critical guy. Up until his late-season swoon and shooting struggles, Tyrese was having a great year. We need that consistency all through the year. We need him to be that third scorer, that all-conference-level player. He's a two-way player, a guy that really helps you on the backboard."

Akok Akok, F, R-Jr.

"He's coming off the best he has looked for us in an intrasquad scrimmage that we ran at the XL Center the other day with referees. He looked good, made a 3, finished around the rim. Akok will be better than he was in that second year removed from major [Achilles] surgery."

Jalen Gaffney, G, Jr.

"We know that he's a good

player and a very valuable player and he is going to play a big role. How big of a role will be determined in the next couple of weeks. He's one of a couple of guys competing to potentially start on the perimeter. He brings an invaluable ability to really create off the dribble. He was one of the few guys who really played well in the Maryland [NCAA Tournament] game."

Richie Springs, F, R-So.

"Richie has really matured and developed a lot. He's in an incredibly competitive situation in terms of getting minutes in the front court. But he's the type of guy we'd be very comfortable playing because he understands our system. He's a hell of a rebounder and he can play either the four or the five."

Andre Jackson, G, So.

"Andre is such an athletic freak. Right now it's about developing an identity. He's got this elite athletic ability and great vision and he's an incredibly aggressive player. It's just channeling those things into a script that you stick to as a player day in and day out. He has a chance, if he locks in on it and makes it his superpower, to be an elite defender, one of the best in the country. His ability to get the defensive rebound and push it in transition and create something with his speed and passing ability and his above-the-rim finishing can be a real weapon for us. He's shooting the ball better than he's ever shot the ball so he's going to have a huge impact on the season."

Adama Sanogo, F, So.

"Adama is going to establish himself this year. He's such a rare individual in terms of how good he can be, how competitive he is, how driven he is to succeed, his work ethic. He's down there shooting right now. The concerns with Adama are continuing to develop discipline on the defensive end and stay out of foul trouble because late in the year he was truly a force. He was honorable mention all-league, but he could play at a first-team all-conference level if he can stay out of foul trouble. And we've worked really hard on his passing out of the post because the traps will be coming, so developing him as a passer is the next step in his evolution."

Rahsoul Diggins, G, Fr.

"He took a knee bone bruise within the first practice or two, so he hasn't had a chance to do much with us since the real stuff started in October. We saw flashes of his ability during the summer, but he hasn't been real healthy. He's got

good size, physically very strong and a high skill level. He's going to be a real good player for us."

Corey Floyd Jr., G, Fr.

"We're all amazed by him, the way he's been able to seamlessly jump into UConn-level, Top-25-projected, deep veteran team-level practices and fully function, being very, very mature. He's 17 years old, practicing against 22-year-olds. He's improved so much since he's been here. He reminds me a lot of a kid I had at Rhode Island, Jared Terrell, a physically strong guard and he impacted winning so much."

Jordan Hawkins, G, Fr.

"Samson [Johnson] and Jordan Hawkins, you just don't think you're going to get a full four years with either of those guys because they're so talented and have so many traits that project to the NBA level. Jordan has a chance to have a bigger impact sooner because of what we lost on the perimeter with James [Bouknight]. Don't go into the games expecting to compare the play style to Bouknight. It's not the same type of flair off the dribble as a finisher, the windmills, the SportsCenter Top 10s, but Jordan in his own way is incredibly dynamic as a shooter. He's got a chance to be one of the elite shooters in the country. I don't know if there's a guy with the footwork, coming off screens quickly, with elevation and how smooth he's able to do it."

Samson Johnson, F, Fr.

"He's what you would hope your 'stretch four' man [would] look like. He can switch and pretty much be able to guard all five positions. He's eventually going to be a competent-to-good 3-point shooter. And the stuff he does above the rim, with his cutting and ball-screen game, is elite. Both [Johnson and Hawkins] have potential to get on the [NBA] lottery wall here."

Walk-ons

"Matt Garry and Andrew [Hurley] both dunked successfully on First Night, so those guys feel great about that. Matt had a brutal knee injury, he tore all of the ligaments in his knee as well as a micro-fracture surgery and meniscus. He had the full brutality with the knee and we talked about setting a goal of dunking on First Night as something to strive for every day with his rehab, and Matt was able to do that. The pride of Southington."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

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HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Marlborough's Heslin to represent US in U15 Pan American championships

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

MARLBOROUGH — West Johnson remembered a match this summer at a national wrestling tournament when Marlborough's Jackson Heslin was losing by seven points with time running out.

"Most wrestlers would have given up on the match at that point," said Johnson, who coaches Heslin at KT Kidz wrestling program in Rocky Hill.

"Jackson went out there and had two big four-point moves to win the match with like three seconds left on the clock. I've been around wrestling for years, and it's probably one of the first times I've ever seen a comeback like that."

Heslin, now a freshman at Xavier High School, has that kind of drive.

In August 2020, he moved to California for a year to work with a renowned wrestling program and went to school online. In April, he won the UWW U15 Nationals at 52 kilograms (114 pounds) in Greco-Roman at the Woodside Dome in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. He also finished fifth in the freestyle tournament.

The two victories helped Heslin secure a spot on the U.S. team that will compete this week at the U15 Pan American Championships in Mexico City. The competition takes place from Oct. 22-24.

"He's a real gamer," Johnson said. "He likes to compete, he likes

to win, he likes to battle in every situation. I always described him as he has ice in his veins."

"He'll never lose a close match. He's always in a match, doesn't matter the score. If he's down, if he's up, he usually finds a way to win."

Heslin has been wrestling since he was he was in kindergarten. He played soccer, football, hockey and baseball but eventually dropped the other sports to focus on wrestling.

"I don't like sitting out or sitting on the bench, that's kind of why," he said. "It's an individual sport."

He started competing when he began wrestling with KT Kidz and has traveled around the country to wrestle. Last August, Heslin moved to California to train full time at the Poway Wrestling Olympic Regional Training Center, which is affiliated with USA Wrestling.

"I moved out there with a family, from last August to this August," he said. "I was training out there for a year and doing online school. I was competing and practicing with my team."

"It was hard, practicing every day. But the way I wrestle, and my conditioning, is so much better."

Heslin has high hopes for his trip to Mexico City.

"I'm expecting to win it," he said. "I've trained really hard this past month."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

NHL LATE TUESDAY

Sorokin stops 39, Islanders beat Blackhawks for 1st win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — While the Islanders searched for their game, Ilya Sorokin bought some time for the rest of his team.

More than enough for New York to pick up its first win.

Sorokin made 39 saves and Oliver Wahlstrom scored twice in the third period, helping the Islanders beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-1 on Tuesday night.

"A step in the right direction, for sure," forward Cal Clutterbuck said.

Clutterbuck and Anthony Beauvillier also scored as New York improved to 1-2-0 on its opening 13-game road trip. The Islanders don't play their first home game at the new UBS Arena until Nov. 20.

Chicago outplayed New York for long stretches in its home opener but remained winless during a sluggish 0-3-1 start. Coach Jeremy

Colliton was booed by the crowd during pregame introductions, and there were more boos as the Islanders pulled away in the third.

"It's not as if we didn't generate enough chances; we did," Colliton said. "And I thought defensively we were much better."

"So if we play that game over and over again, and certainly the first two periods, we play that game over and over again the results will tilt our way."

MacKenzie Entwistle scored for Chicago with 26 seconds left, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 25 stops.

The Blackhawks have been outscored 17-8 this season. They haven't led in any of their four games.

"It's frustrating, no doubt," captain Jonathan Toews said. "But whenever you go through that you have a choice, and the only choice for us is just to keep working through it."

COLLEGES CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT

Sources: 6 C-USA schools apply for AAC membership

Associated Press

The American Athletic Conference's latest rebuild leaves Conference USA in a precarious position.

Six schools from C-USA — UAB, UTSA, Rice, North Texas, Charlotte and Florida Atlantic — have applied for membership with the AAC and are expected to be accepted by the end of the week, according to two people with knowledge of the process who spoke with Associated Press.

An announcement could come as soon as Thursday. The people spoke to AP on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the league was not yet prepared to make its expansion plans public.

The shuffling is part of the fall-

out from the latest round of conference realignment that kicked off this summer when Oklahoma and Texas decided to bolt the Big 12 for the Southeastern Conference. The ripple effects are now being felt across the country.

The AAC was in the market for new members after three of its most successful schools — Cincinnati, Houston and Central Florida — announced in September they would be joining the Big 12.

Those moves are expected by the 2023 football season, and the AAC hopes to have its six new members in place when the departing schools leave.

The result would be a 14-team conference, with four schools in Texas — the three new members and SMU.



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SPORTS

PATRIOTS NOTES

Jones gets high marks as NFL's top rookie quarterback

By Nicole Yang
Boston Globe

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The Patriots are 2-4, but rookie Mac Jones has been impressive by several measures through the first six games of the season.

Pro Football Focus ranks Jones as the top rookie quarterback, with a grade (79.7) more than 20 points higher than Zach Wilson (59.4), Trey Lance (59.0), Trevor Lawrence (56.8), Davis Mills (56.3), and Justin Fields (56.0).

While the Patriots have just two wins, Jones has achieved some smaller individual milestones.

Against the Miami Dolphins in the season opener, he logged the highest completion percentage (74.4 percent) of any rookie quarterback making their NFL debut (with a minimum of 25 pass attempts). Against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Week 4, he completed 19 straight passes — the longest streak by a rookie in the last 40 years.

Among rookie quarterbacks this season, Jones — despite being blitzed and hit the most — is the leader in passing yards, completion percentage, touchdowns (tied with Lawrence), and quarterback rating.

Jones has completed 71.1 percent of his passing attempts, which would set a new record for best rookie completion percentage in NFL history. Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott currently holds the record, at 67.8 percent.

So, does Jones take pride in his performance?

"All I can do is control what I do every day," he said Wednesday afternoon. "There's a lot of good quarterbacks in this league. I can play much better than I'm playing. It just comes with reps and experience. I'm not here to compare with anybody. I just have to try to be the best player and teammate I can be. I think we're moving in the right direction."

Has he exceeded any expectations he set for himself?

"I don't really believe in expectations," he said. "I just focus on every day and just doing my job."

Missing personnel: Five Patriots, including four defensive starters, did not participate in Wednesday's practice.

Defensive tackle Davon Godchaux



Patriots quarterback Mac Jones signals from the line during the second half against the Cowboys on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. STEVEN SENNE/AP

(finger), linebacker Dont'a Hightower (elbow/ankle), cornerback Jonathan Jones (shoulder), and defensive end Deatrich Wise Jr. (knee) all were sidelined. Rookie cornerback Shaun Wade also remained out with a concussion.

Another 11 Patriots were limited in practice. The full list includes defensive tackle Christian Barnmore (shoulder), linebacker Ja'Whaun Bentley (ribs), running back Brandon Bolden (thigh), safety Kyle Dugger (knee), kicker Nick Folk (left knee), linebacker Brandon King (thigh), guard Shaq Mason (abdomen), defensive back Jalen Mills (hamstring), safety Adrian Phillips (back), linebacker Josh Uche (shoulder), and linebacker Kyle Van Noy (groin).

Backup quarterback Jarrett Stidham and defensive tackle Byron Cowart, who both began the year on the physically unable to perform list, also returned to practice for the first time this season. The team has 21 days to activate them to the 53-man roster.

The Patriots also worked out cornerbacks Brian Poole and De'Vante Bausby. Poole has five years of NFL experience and last played for the New York Jets in 2020.

Waiting to break out: Through six games this season, Patriots tight end Jonnu Smith has put up quiet numbers: 16 catches for 124 yards and one touchdown. But neither Smith nor coach Bill Belichick seem all that concerned about the statistics.

"We talked about this multiple times," Belichick said Wednesday morning. "To throw the ball, we need to have good team execution, protection, route-running, spacing, and winning our individual matchups based on leverage and man-to-man coverage. Then, the quarterback throws the ball to the guy that's open."

"The concept of throwing one guy 10 passes, I don't really understand that."

Last season, as a member of the Tennessee Titans, Smith caught 41 passes for 448 yards and eight touchdowns. All of his scores came inside the red zone.

Now, currently in the first season of a four-year, \$50 million deal with the Patriots, Smith has yet to light up the stat sheet. But he stressed he's embraced his role in New England's offense, regardless of his individual production.

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS SOCCER

CCC-South
MIDDLETOWN 1, BRISTOL EASTERN 0
Goal: M—Matt Butler. Saves: M—Tyler Hahn, 4; BE—Peyton Cummings, 5. Rec.: M—8-1-3; BE—2-9-1. Note: Dario Rigano had the assist.

CCC-East

SOUTH WINDSOR 1, MANCHESTER 1

Goals: SW—Drew Monteserin; M—Sedem Omega. Saves: SW—Kyle Sullivan, 6; M—Will Slavyan, 11. Rec.: SW—4-5-3; M—1-6-5.

NCCC

GRANBY 5, WINDSOR LOCKS 0

Goals: G—Noah Kroninger, Steven Peterson, Eli Delfner, Liam Heintze, Tyler Brown. Saves: G—Griffin Carey and Braden Milbrandt, 8; WL—Ryan Martineau and Caden Mackey, 20. Rec.: G—8-3; WL—1-9.

Shoreline

MORGAN 2, HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 0

Goals: M—Matt Lopez, Steven Kinser. Saves: M—Bailey Goss, 4; HK—Jack Strata, 7. Rec.: M—11-2-1; HK—7-8-1.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

CCC-Inter

SOUTH WINDSOR 3, NEWINGTON 0

(25-9, 25-15, 25-17)

SW: Grace Reed, 10 kills, 4 aces, 2 digs, Julia Ghagre, 21 assists, 1 ace; N: Hannah DeMarco, 5 aces, 2 aces, 1 kill, Diana Silivinski, 2 kills, 2 dig, 1 block. Rec.: SW—12-5; N—9-8.

GIRLS SWIMMING

CCC-Inter

AMITY 92, HAND 86

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS SOCCER

CCC-West

FARMINGTON 4, SOUTHBURY 0

Goals: F—Matt Cence (3), Caden Gallagher. Saves: F—Patrick Pietraszewski, 3; S—Ryan Lunn, 7. Rec.: F—7-3-1; S—2-2-2.

NCCC

BOLTON 1, EAST GRANBY 0

Goal: B—Dimani Rainford. Saves: B—Trevor Rainford, 3; EG—Matt Fagnant, 9. Rec.: B—8-4-2; EG—5-6-2. Note: Rainford's goal came just 4 minutes into the game.

CRAL

PARISH HILL 4, INNOVATION 1

Goals: PH—Cyleek Zaimoff (3), Isaiyah Smallhorn; I—Dawood Alsaifi. Saves: PH—Gabe Victoria, 7; I—Arnez Falcon, 6. Rec.: PH—12-1; I—6-4-2.

CLASSICAL 3, MLC 0

SCC

XAVIER 2, HAND 1

CHESHIRE 4, SHELTON 0

SHEEHAN 2, FORAN 2

Others

SMSA/BULKELEY 1, AEROSPACE 1

Goals: SB—Zareli David; A—Caly Estrada. Saves: SB—Qasim Nazar, 8; A—Zachary Klar, 6. Rec.: SB—1-9-2; A—9-1-2.

BASSICK 5, UNIVERSITY/PRINCE TECH 0

SUFFIELD 5, COGINCHAUG 0

GIRLS SOCCER

CCC-North

NEWINGTON 2, ROCKY HILL 1

CCC-East

E.O. SMITH 3, RHAM 0

Goals: EOS—Sage Magowan, Taylor Homiski, Bri Skowrenski. Saves: EOS—9-1-2; R—2-7-2.

ELLINGTON 7, CANTON 0
Goals: E—Gillian Paseka (2), Megan Johnhron (2), Eva Paparian (2), Carolyn Sullivan. Saves: E—Kylie LaDestro, 3; C—Julia Lau, 24. Rec.: E—7-0-6; C—6-7.

EAST GRANBY 4, BOLTON 2
Goals: EG—Morgan Egan (4); B—Isabel Kenney, Madison Peacock. Saves: EG—Ava Guyer, 7; B—Allie Buonomano, 2. Rec.: EG—6-3-4; B—3-8-1. CTC

WINDHAM TECH 6, GOODWIN TECH 0
SCC

SHEEHAN 3, FORAN 0
Goals: S—Amy Casoria, Kate Frioni, Kate Casora. Saves: S—Trinity LaValley, 3; F—Hannah Della Bitta-Falkowski, 2. Rec.: S—9-2-3; F—7-4-2. Note: Frioni scored her first career varsity goal.

AMITY 3, CHESHIRE 2
SACRED HEART ACADEMY 8, LYMAN HALL 2

HALL 10, CAREER/HILLHOUSE 0

Others

OLD LYME 2, LEDYARD 0
Goals: OL—Abby Manthous, Alexis Fenton. Saves: OL—Olivia Kelly, 7. Rec.: OL—9-0-5; L—8-2-3.

EAST CATHOLIC 3, HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 2

WOODLAND 3, PORTLAND 0

SOMERS 1, LYMAN MEMORIAL 0

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-South
GLASTONBURY 8, NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 0

Goals: G—Christina Guanci (2), Mikayla Welsh (2), Allie Lips (2), Mikayla Balabat, Alicia Choquette. Saves: G—Kaitlyn Parent, 1; NW—Lauren Armstrong, 16. Rec.: G—8-1-2; NW—4-6-1.

WETHERSFIELD 4, EAST CATHOLIC 0

CCC-Inter

SIMSBURY 5, NEWINGTON 0

Others

SOUTHBURY 2, HAMDEN 0

Goals: S—Mikayla Winegar (2), Saves: S—Morgan Lasek, 2; H—Rola Elzoz, 8. Rec.: S—6-6-1; H—12-12.

HALL 6, GRANBY 0

HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 1, CANTON 0

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

CCC-North
WINDSOR 3, ROCKY HILL 0

(25-16, 25-16)

W: Amanda Romero, 9 assists, 7 aces, 5 digs, Olivia Casiano, 4 aces, 3 digs, 3 kills, Marisa Inyatkin, 8 kills, 7 digs, 2 blocks. Rec.: W—7-9; RH—4-11.

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-South
PLAINVILLE 25, LEWIS MILLS 1

Goals: PL—Mackenzie Grady, 10 kills, 6 aces, Callie Chardas, 15 kills, 10 aces, Keera Reed, 17 digs; NH—Hannah Audino, 25 assists, 4 aces. Rec.: LH—9-9; NH—14-13.

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-South
WINDHAM 15, LEWIS MILLS 1

Goals: WH—Morgan Desjardin, 3 aces, 2 blocks; LM—Mae Gavit, 5 kills, 2 aces. Rec.: P—13-5; LM—4-14.

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-West
SIMSBURY 3, FARMINGTON 2

Goals: S—Brooke Jones, 14 kills, 5 aces, 10 blocks; F—Brooke Jones, 14 kills, 5 blocks, Shannon O'Brien, 34 assists. Rec.: S—13-4; F—7-8.

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-West
BERLIN 3, WETHERSFIELD 1

(25-17, 25-17, 25-16)

W: Alivia Halkias, 18 aces, 7 kills, 6 aces, Geena Vincenzo, 14 aces, 7 kills, 5 aces; W: Julia Laabs, 16 kills, 4 aces, 3 blocks, Ava O'Neil, 5 aces, 4 aces, 3 blocks. Rec.: B—6-12; W—7-10.

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-South
CONARD 3, BRISTOL EASTERN 2

(20-25, 25-15, 25-18, 18-16)

C: Nyssa Park, 40 assists, 11 aces, 11 blocks; D: Danielle DiGiacomo, 13 kills, 12 aces, 12 blocks; BE: Hannah Webber, 21 kills, 6 aces, 13 blocks. Rec.: C—14-1; BE—12-4.

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-South
MANCHESTER 3, BULKELEY 0

(26-15, 25-16)

Others

SMSA/BULKELEY 1, AEROSPACE 1

Goals: SB—Zareli David; A—Caly Estrada. Saves: SB—Qasim Nazar, 8; A—Zachary Klar, 6. Rec.: SB—1-9-2; A—9-1-2.

FIELD HOCKEY

CCC-North
NEWINGTON 2, ROCKY HILL 1

CCC-East

E.O. SMITH 3, RHAM 0

Hartford Courant

FLAVOR

LIVING

What do Marvel characters eat?

Pop culture cookbooks have answers — and rapt audiences



Chef and food writer Nyanyika Banda is tapping the Black Panther comics as inspiration for a cookbook that explores food from across the African continent.

By Priya Krishna

The New York Times

Chelsea Monroe-Cassel is currently developing a recipe for a dish whose traditional version she'll never be able to taste, and whose place of origin she'll never be able to visit: Plomeek soup, a staple on the fictional planet Vulcan. In writing "The Star Trek Cookbook," out next March, she has spent hours watching old episodes and movies from her home in West Windsor, Vermont, trying to deduce what might be in the reddish soup.

"We know shockingly little about Vulcan cuisine, given how much of a fan favorite Spock is," she said. Some people believe that Vulcans are vegetarian, as their strong morals and fear of their own capacity for violence would mean they avoid food that requires slaughtering. But do those arguments hold up, she wondered, in a universe where meat can be replicated with machines?

The result: "A cold gazpacho with tomato and strawberry and a little bit of balsamic."

Monroe-Cassel, 36, has dedicated her career to bringing to life the food of her favorite television shows, movies and games. She has written "A Feast of Ice and Fire: The Official Game of Thrones Companion Cookbook," "The Elder Scrolls: The Official Cookbook," "Firefly: The Big Damn Cookbook" and "World of Warcraft: The Official Cookbook." Together they have sold more than 250,000 copies. She is not a trained chef, but she is hugely enthusiastic about pop culture food. For fans like her, "it is a big way, a new and tangible way, of connecting with a world that they love," she said.

"Video games are a form of escapism and books are a form of escapism," she added, "and I think this is a form of escapism that appeals to extra senses."

This genre has existed since at least the 1970s, with titles like "The Dark Shadows Cookbook," "The Partridge Family Cookbook" and "The Little House Cookbook" from "Little House on the Prairie." Of late, these books have grown significantly in popularity and scale. They've found a mainstream audience and contain recipes that many people actually want to cook.

As streaming platforms have made media both more accessible and social, fans have turned their fascination into full-on lifestyles. Monroe-Cassel, for one, was just an enthusiast of the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series with a blog called The Inn at the Crossroads before she started writing these cookbooks. Others visit the "Star Wars" theme park, pose on the Central Perk couch from "Friends" and cosplay as Moira Rose from "Schitt's Creek."

"My generation, to know what people are interested in, you went through their record collection or their library," said Charles Miers, 62, the publisher of Rizzoli New York. "Now you ask them what TV show they are watching."

While early pop culture cookbooks were more like novelties, titles like the 2002 "Sopranos Family Cookbook," which sold more than 142,000 copies, and 2010's "The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook," with more than 1 million books sold, showed this could be a genre in its own right. Major publishers like Penguin Random House have dedicated teams for pop culture books, which can be officially licensed from the franchise or unofficial. The cookbooks span subject matter both expected ("Bob's Burgers," "Ratatouille") and eyebrow-raising ("The Walking Dead," "Hannibal").

As fan cultures have deepened, these cookbooks have evolved too. Less prevalent are the ones that simply name recipes after characters. Today's pop culture cookbooks are heavily researched tomes about their fictional worlds. They consider climates and character motivations. They fill in gaps in the narrative. Authors pore over every element — down to the props in recipe photos — so fans can feel fully immersed.

When chef and writer Nyanyika Banda started working on the upcoming "The Official Wakanda Cookbook" based on



A Black Panther comic, notes and various cooking materials at Banda's home in Amherst, Massachusetts. Her recipes — like chambo, a traditional fish dish from Malawi — speak directly to Wakanda's varying locations in Africa throughout the run of the Black Panther comics.

MICHAEL PIAZZA/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

Marvel's Black Panther comics, she knew Marvel's rabid fan base would expect a high level of detail.

"If we had written this book 15 years ago, you probably could have gotten away with including a lot of things from the entire continent of Africa without giving explanation to why they existed," said Banda, 39. "There is this need for people coming up with these recipes to know what they are talking about" in terms of both the comics and African foodways.

Banda considered the role that colonialism played in adding a Western influence to certain African dishes, and how to explain that influence when they included those foods in the book — since Wakanda is supposed to be isolated from the rest of the world. (Banda found a solution in referencing more recent comics about Wakanda

opening itself up to outsiders.)

This approach is a far cry from the early books in the genre, which place little emphasis on compelling recipes and complex storytelling.

Author Dinah Bucholz's proposal for "The Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook" was fished out of a slush pile at Adams Media and sold so well that it inspired a larger investment into these sorts of titles, said Brendan O'Neill, the editor-in-chief of Adams.

He said the company chooses pop culture properties for cookbooks based on depth, not breadth, of the fandom.

"People may love a series like 'Survivor,'" he said, "but there is a bit of a disconnect between that and a cultural phenomenon and fan engagement you see on 'Harry Potter' and 'The Simpsons' where this

universe exists."

Bucholz said that fantasy series like "Harry Potter" and "Game of Thrones" lend themselves well to cookbooks because the food descriptions tend to be fairly detailed. "The authors clearly enjoyed writing about food," she said. "They wrote about it with so much relish. It is such a major part of the characters' lives."

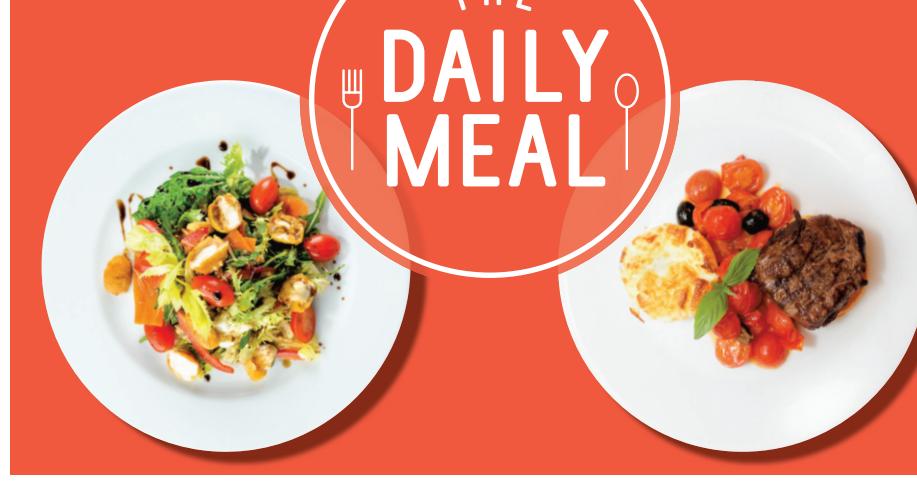
O'Neill said the demographic for these books tends to be amateur cooks in their 20s to 40s. But it's unclear what percentage of them are actually cooking anything.

"I think a lot of people buy the books because they are just fans and collectors," said Jennifer Sims, 47, a senior editor at Insight Editions. "Then you have the other half who like cooking and just will make one weekly meal from this particular book, or they will throw a viewing party."

If you're looking to whip up a delish dish, try The Daily Meal today.

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Tasty tortizzas are a dinner life raft

By Eric Kim
The New York Times

When it first opened in 2018, the Manhattan bar and vodka distillery Our/ New York would serve makeshift tortilla pizzas that had been quickly burnished in a toaster oven behind the bar. The founder and partner, Dave Ortiz, got the idea from his friend, chef Ilan Hall. "Long story short: A celebrity chef hooked me up," he said.

The medium-size flour tortillas — affectionately called "tortizzas" by the patrons — were draped in tomato sauce, ricotta cheese and red-pepper flakes. They were marvelous (and free of charge).

You'll have to pay for your own tortillas, but when prepared at home, the tortizza can be a delicate slip of a weeknight dream — a life raft when time is of the essence. Although you can use corn tortillas for this dish, the moisture in flour tortillas will cause them to puff up in spots once baked in a hot oven, and those bites are the most fun to eat.

Crispy-edged and light, like lither thin-crust pizzas, tortizzas can be topped with whatever you like and nothing you don't. These tortizzas include a layer of shredded mozzarella cheese that, when melted in the oven, creates a sturdy barrier for the toppings. A dusting of dried oregano somehow makes everything taste of pizza parlor incarnate. The topping, inspired by a Greek salad — and specifically, California Pizza Kitchen's now-discontinued Greek pizza — is a medley of diced cucumbers and tomatoes and slivers of creamy avocado. Feta delivers sharpness and dreaminess, as does the simple garlicky yogurt sauce (a couple of ingredients shy of a tzatziki).

As with the best boy bands, Ben & Jerry's ice



Tortizzas topped with crunchy vegetables and salty feta couldn't be easier to make. DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES

cream flavors and group projects for school, the salad topping is much greater than the sum of all of its fresh ingredients. Enjoy the motley crew of tastes and textures.

Don't skip the last part: honey. It might sound out of place here, but that golden sweetness, dribbled at the end over the vegetables, really brings together all of the disparate bits and bobs of this otherwise savory recipe. Anyway, honey is a popular accompaniment for Italian pizzas with soppressata and also happens to be a favored dipping sauce for pizza in South Korea.

These tortizzas eat flat like tostadas but are more

yielding, like solo pizzas. But it's your life: Feel free to fold them like tacos or gyro wraps. When it comes to the tortizza, all that matters is that it ends up in your mouth.

Perhaps the best part of this dish is that it takes about 15 minutes to make, from start to finish, which leaves plenty of time to get on with your day. One useful trick is to make the salad topping and yogurt sauce in advance, both of which will keep in an airtight container in the refrigerator for a day or two. That way, when you need a quick bite, all you have to do is warm up the tortillas and pile on the toppings.

Tortizzas

Makes: 4 servings

Total time: 15 minutes

3 to 4 Persian or mini seedless cucumbers, scrubbed and cut into 1/2-inch dice (about 2 cups)

2 ripe medium tomatoes, cut into 1/2-inch dice (about 2 cups)

1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt (Diamond Crystal)

8 (6-inch) soft flour tortillas

2 cups shredded low-moisture mozzarella

2 teaspoons dried oregano, za'atar or Italian seasoning

1 cup plain yogurt

1 large garlic clove, finely grated

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

2 teaspoons honey, plus more for drizzling

1 cup crumbled feta

1 ripe Hass avocado, halved and thinly sliced

1/2 cup packed fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves and tender stems

1. Place racks in upper and lower thirds of

oven and heat oven to 400 degrees. Line two large sheet pans with parchment paper.

2. Toss the cucumbers, tomatoes and 1/2 teaspoon salt in a colander set in the sink and toss to combine. Let sit to drain excess liquid, about 10 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, arrange the tortillas on the sheet pans, four per pan, and sprinkle each with the mozzarella and dried oregano.

Bake until the cheese is melted and lightly browned, and the tortillas' edges are crispy but still pale, 8 to 10 minutes.

4. While tortillas are baking, make yogurt sauce: In a small bowl or measuring cup, whisk together yogurt, garlic, lemon juice, honey and the remaining 1 teaspoon salt.

5. To serve, evenly divide the drained cucumbers and tomatoes among the tortillas. Top each with feta, avocado and parsley, and spoon the yogurt sauce over everything, leaving some back to serve on the side. As a final flourish, lightly drizzle the tortillas with honey. You can eat these flat like mini pizzas or folded like tacos.

Sugar and spice make this pumpkin bread extra nice

America's Test Kitchen

Quick breads should be moist but not soggy, so we often need to get rid of extra liquid in the batter. In some recipes, like zucchini bread, we squeeze all the excess water out of the shredded zucchini to avoid a soggy loaf.

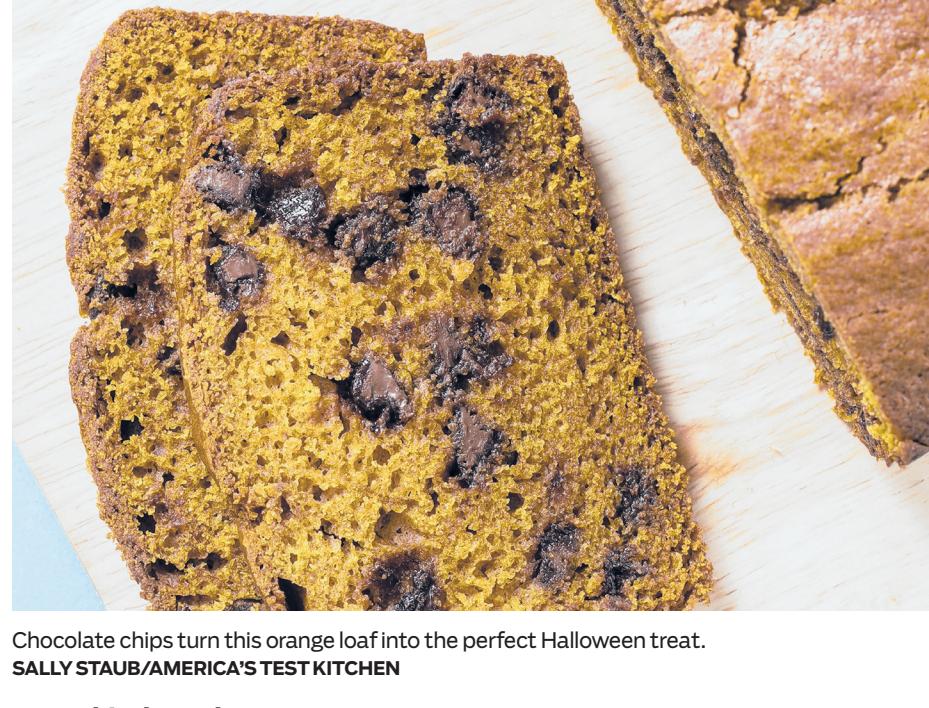
We can't squeeze our pumpkin puree (that would be messy), but cooking has the

same effect.

With heat, some of the water in the puree evaporates, helping keep the finished loaf moist but not soggy.

As a bonus, cooking the puree takes away the raw pumpkin taste and gives it some earthy caramel flavor.

Add a little cinnamon and nutmeg, and this bread smells (and tastes) like autumn, and is a great Halloween treat.



Chocolate chips turn this orange loaf into the perfect Halloween treat.

SALLY STAUB/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Pumpkin bread with chocolate chips

Makes: 10 servings

Vegetable oil spray

1 1/4 cups (6 1/4 ounces) all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 teaspoon baking soda

2 large eggs

2 tablespoons (1 ounce) milk

3/4 cup canned unsweetened pumpkin puree

3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/2 cup (3 1/2 ounces) sugar

1/2 cup packed (3 1/2 ounces) light brown sugar

1/2 cup vegetable oil

3/4 cup (4 1/2 ounces) chocolate chips

1. Adjust oven rack to the middle position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray inside bottom and sides of an 8 1/2-by-4 1/2-inch metal loaf pan with vegetable oil spray.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder and baking soda. In a small bowl, whisk together eggs and milk.

3. In a large saucpan, combine pumpkin

puree, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly with a rubber spatula, until mixture just begins to bubble, 4 to 6 minutes.

4. Remove from heat. Add sugar, brown sugar and oil to pumpkin mixture and whisk until combined. Let mixture cool for 10 minutes. Whisk again until mixture is very smooth.

5. Add egg mixture to pumpkin mixture and whisk to combine. Add flour mixture and use a rubber spatula to stir until just combined and no dry flour is visible. Stir chocolate chips into batter. Do not overmix. Scrape batter into the greased loaf pan and smooth the top.

6. Place loaf pan in the oven. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center of the pumpkin bread comes out clean, 50 minutes to 1 hour. Place the loaf pan on a cooling rack and let pumpkin bread cool in the pan for 15 minutes.

7. Remove pumpkin bread from pan. Let pumpkin bread cool on the cooling rack for at least 1 hour. Transfer to a cutting board, slice and serve.

RECIPE FOR A HEALTHY KID



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BELONG TO SOMETHING GREATER



Get Your
Foodie On
THURSDAYS IN
Flavor

Selling good, cheap wines without pandering

Entrepreneur offers clear, simple labels for novices

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

For young people on tight budgets who want to learn more about wine, the points of entry can be discouraging.

Plenty of cheap wine is out there. But much of it is not very good.

Supermarket aisles are stocked with inexpensive, cunningly branded wines, packaged not to educate consumers about what's inside the container but to appeal to one's predilections, whether cute animals, titillation, desserts or an air of gloomy mystery.

Other wines, like those labeled "clean" or "gluten-free," capitalize on consumer ignorance by making exaggerated claims or drawing fallacious contrasts (yes, virtually all wines are gluten-free).

Then you have wines that are good, honest renditions of historical styles, made using traditional methods. Sadly, these are often hard to pick out of the crowd because they require consumers to have some knowledge of both producers and wine labeling.

The situation is even more difficult for those who want to understand bottles from Old World regions, which can often bury young, English-speaking consumers under an avalanche of indecipherable terminology.

Enter Mary Taylor, a wine entrepreneur, who has made it her business to fill this void. She offers a simple, elegant solution, one that does not pander, condescend or dumb down.

Instead, she has come up with a packaging approach for European appellation wines that is clear, consistent and unembellished, displaying the provenance and the producer on clean,



GETTY

white labels, with an easy-to-read font. All the wines in her white-label line are tied together by a subtle, subordinate "Mary Taylor" signature.

They are excellent values, priced at \$13 to \$19 and now available in 38 states, including New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Most important, the wines she has chosen are all good, forthright, unadorned representations of their terroirs.

It hardly seems like a revolutionary, or even novel, idea, to put together a similar combination of good wine, clear packaging and modest prices. And it raises the question of whether a brand can succeed simply by presenting the goods, without flattery.

To put it another way, for years the wine industry has rationalized inexpensive, bad wines as "gateway bottles," steppingstones for consumers who eventually will graduate to the good

stuff. It doesn't matter what they drink, the thinking goes, so long as they are paying for wine.

But what if curious young people were offered legitimate gateway bottles, gently priced introductions that gave an appealing taste of the wider world beyond?

Taylor's Bordeaux Rouge 2018 is a good example. Bordeaux is better known in its luxury guise, expensive bottles from prestigious areas like St.-Julien and Pomerol, aged for years and sipped reverently by connoisseurs. But Bordeaux is a huge region with myriad small producers making good (and bad) wines at every price.

This bottle, with the simple Bordeaux appellation, made by Jean Marc Barthez, head of a small cooperative in the greater Bordeaux area, is precisely the sort of wine you imagine the locals drinking, at least, those without the big chateaus. It's supple, dry, fresh, mildly tannic,

humble and direct, just a good, refreshing drink. I've seen it priced from \$12 to \$18.

Plenty of good, inexpensive Bordeaux is out there, but those bottles are hard to pick out from the dross. Taylor's labeling system removes the mystery.

In a sense, she is capitalizing on one of the oldest tricks of wine-lovers, shopping by importer. No wine consumer, not even experts, can hope to know every producer. Instead, over time, they learn which importers' tastes tend to align with their own.

One might object that Taylor is franchising wine, removing the mystery like franchise food options at interstate rest stops rather than independent mom-and-pops. If anything, the opposite is true. She is instead making available in her line good, small, independent producers who otherwise might never have cut through the noise.

"The uniformity is the packaging, not the wine or the appellation," she said. "My hope is that this convention creates a safe space for people to explore the unknown."

Taylor made a conscious decision not to put the names of grapes on the front label, preferring instead to emphasize the geography, as historic wine-drinking countries have for ages.

"If Americans treated cheese like we treat wine, we would have cow, sheep and goat, not the lexicon we know and enjoy," she said. "I spent a lot of time thinking about how to get Americans to drink geographically. I looked at the top-selling wines in America and thought that the true European appellation wine was sorely missing."

In 2019, Taylor made Mary Taylor Wine her full-time job. She offers 20 wines in her white-label line, 15 from France, two

from Portugal, two from Italy and one from Spain. In addition, she offers four bottles at a lower price, \$10 to \$12, that display regional identifications rather than the more specific appellations.

Taylor's white-label wines include well-known appellations like Anjou, Beaujolais-Villages, Cahors, Muscadet Sèvre et Maine and Dão in Portugal.

But they also encompass obscure places that even French wine experts may rarely encounter, places like Buzet in southwestern France (a really nice red of 80% merlot and 20% cabernet sauvignon that is earthy and chewy) and Valençay, a Loire appellation better known for cheese than wine (the red — 35% gamay, 35% côt, as malbec is known there, and 30% pinot noir — is easygoing, with chalky flavors of red fruits).

All of the wines, she said, are from growers who farm conscientiously, even if they are not necessarily organic or biodynamic. They are made with minimal intervention, though they would not be called natural wines.

Practices that would not be tolerated by natural wine fans, like harvesting by machine rather than by hand, do not deter her.

"I don't think a grad student on a budget would find this that important," she said.

Many of the producers are women. Taylor feels that in small family operations, the man has always gotten most of the credit, despite the contributions of women. "When does she get recognized?" she asked.

How does she measure whether her vision is succeeding?

"A retailer in Georgia recently told my distributor that young adults were now asking for the Valençay by name," she said. "He said, 'Tell Mary her plan is working.'

A ghoulishly delicious cake

By Victoria Abbott Riccardi | EatingWell

Looking for a Halloween dessert? This tender, moist chocolate cake uses pureed pumpkin to replace much of the fat and is delicately seasoned with classic fall flavors.

Glazed chocolate-pumpkin bundt cake

Makes: 16 servings
Active time: 30 minutes
Total time: 3 1/2 hours (including cooling time)

For the cake:

1 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup whole-wheat pastry flour
1 cup granulated sugar
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder (not Dutch-process)
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup nonfat buttermilk
(15-ounce) can unsweetened pumpkin puree
3/4 cup dark brown sugar packed

1 large egg at room temperature
1 large egg white at room temperature
1/4 cup canola oil

1/4 cup light corn syrup
1 tablespoon vanilla extract

For the glaze and garnish:

1/2 cup packed confectioners' sugar
1 tablespoon nonfat buttermilk

2 tablespoons mini chocolate chips or toasted chopped nuts

1. To prepare cake: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 12-cup Bundt pan with cooking spray.

2. Whisk all-purpose flour, whole-wheat flour, granulated sugar, cocoa, baking powder, baking soda, pumpkin pie spice and salt in a medium bowl.

3. Blend 1 cup buttermilk, the pumpkin puree and brown sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer on low speed. Beat in whole egg and egg white. Stir in oil, corn syrup and vanilla. Gradually add the dry ingredients, stirring until just combined. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan.

4. Bake the cake until a wooden skewer inserted in



Classic fall flavors will have you screaming for more of this cake. **KEN BURRIS/EATINGWELL**

the center comes out with only a few moist crumbs attached, 1 to 1 1/4 hours. Let cool on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Remove from the pan and let cool completely on the rack, about 2 hours.

5. To glaze and garnish the cake: Combine confectioners' sugar and 1 tablespoon buttermilk in a small bowl, stirring until completely smooth. Place the cake on a serving plate and drizzle the glaze over the top; garnish with chocolate chips (or chopped nuts) while the glaze is still moist.

Note: To get the most volume from beaten eggs, it's best for them to be at room temperature. Either set the eggs out on the counter for 15 minutes or submerge them in their shells in a bowl of lukewarm (not hot) water for 5 minutes. For the best flavor, toast nuts and seeds before using in a recipe. To toast

seeds, sliced or chopped nuts, place in a small dry skillet and cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly, until fragrant, 2 to 4 minutes. To toast whole nuts, spread in a single layer in a small baking pan and bake in a 350-degree oven until golden and fragrant, 5 to 7 minutes, stirring the nuts or shaking the pan once. Transfer to a small bowl or plate to cool. (When toasting hazelnuts, rub the nuts with a clean kitchen towel as soon as they come out of the oven to remove as much of the papery skin as possible.) Prepare through Step 4 up to one day ahead. Glaze and garnish (Step 5) shortly before serving.

Recipe nutrition per serving: 235 calories, total fat: 5 g, saturated fat: 1 g, cholesterol: 13 mg, carbohydrates: 47 g, fiber: 3 g, added sugars: 28 g, protein: 4 g, sodium: 237 mg

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Treat Halloween guests to a bowl of goulash or a pasta dish that is reminiscent of the classic Hungarian stew. KRISTEN MENDIOLA/THE DAILY MEAL PHOTOS; SHANNON KINSELLA/FOOD STYLING

An adult Halloween feast

A bowl of ghoulish goulash or pasta casserole is perfect for supper with friends



JeanMarie Brownson
Dinner at Home

Halloween may be the holiday known for candy, but it also ranks as one of my favorite holidays to invite folks over for a casual supper. Something hot and spicy ladled from a big cauldron on the stove is just too fitting, especially when accompanied by something carb-y, like a handheld chunk of cornbread or focaccia.

Goulash, a classic stew, richly flavored with beef and paprika, is a pillar of Hungarian cooking and integral to my family's food culture. My grandparents on both sides served it regularly as family fare, using beef or chicken as budgets allowed. Potatoes stretch the dish and balance the meatiness while buttered egg noodles soak up the rich gravy-like sauce. Many middle European restaurants serve goulash as a side in small bowls or as a main with spaetzle and pumpernickel.

Fresh paprika, intensely flavored and deeply red, is essential. I start with a new container every fall. Fresh paprika is sweet and rich, unlike the pale orange powder in bottles on many home spice racks. Look for the red can of Hungarian sweet paprika from Pride of Szeged for reliably delicious paprika.

This fall, I'm employing a chef-style trick that my grandmothers never even considered: browning the beef over the direct heat of a smoky grill. This is less messy than browning batches of meat in hot fat, which tends to splatter. Sure, it's a bit of trouble to heat the grill, but you can brown the beef in advance after grilling something else and refrigerate it for up to two days. Be sure to cool the meat so you can handle it to cut it into pieces; refrigerated meat is easier to cut than warm.

For a ghoulish version, cut red bell peppers into "fingers" and stir in black-eyed peas at the end of the simmering. Place cooked orecchiette or egg noodles into serving bowls before ladling the goulash on top. Purchase thick tomato-topped focaccia or crusty ciabatta to mop up all the goodness in the ghoulish goulash bowl.

For a meatless main that is reminiscent of a bowl of goulash, make a red pepper and tomato pasta sauce spiked with dried mushrooms and beer to replace the umami flavor from the meat. Stir cooked pasta into the sauce and bake before serving with or without a melty cheesy top.

Dessert should be cool and refreshing after the sweet heartiness of paprika. Using leftover Halloween candy, stir chopped candy bars into softened vanilla or chocolate ice cream. Or you can try scoops of lemon sorbet sprinkled with crumbled butter cookies, sweet paprika and coarse salt.

Smoky beef goulash with black-eyed peas and red peppers

Note: You can omit the browning of the meat on the grill and instead brown the meat on a broiler pan six inches from the heat source. Alternatively, heat some bacon fat or oil in the bottom of a Dutch oven and brown the meat cubes in batches in the hot fat. If you wish, you can use a slow cooker at Step 5, but reduce the broth used to 1 1/2 cups. Set the cooker on low for 6-8 hours.

Prep time: 30 minutes

Cook time: 3 hours

Makes: 8 to 10 servings

3 1/2 pounds boneless beef chuck roast

Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

2 red bell peppers (12 ounces), cored

4 tablespoons bacon fat or vegetable oil

2 medium (12 ounces total) sweet onions, halved, sliced

3 large cloves garlic, minced

1/4 cup sweet Hungarian paprika

1 1/2 teaspoons sweet or hot smoked paprika

1/4 teaspoon cayenne, optional

2 1/2 cups low-sodium beef broth

1/2 cup pilsner-style beer

2 tablespoons tomato paste

8 ounces frozen or two drained

15-ounce cans black-eyed peas

Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Cooked orecchiette or egg noodles, for serving

1. If desired, cut roast in half or thirds for easier handling. Mix 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon

pepper in a small dish. Sprinkle beef pieces on all sides with salt mixture



and place in a covered baking dish or bowl. Refrigerate 1 hour or up to 1 day.

2. Prepare a charcoal grill until coals are covered with gray ash or heat a gas grill to medium-hot, about 400 degrees. Place beef on grill. Cover and cook until deeply browned, about 10 minutes. Flip meat to brown the other side, 5-10 more minutes. Let cool on a cutting board until you can handle it. Cut into 1 1/2-inch pieces. (For alternative cooking methods, see note.)

3. Cut 2 cored red bell peppers into 1/4-inch-wide strips about 2 inches long. Heat a heavy 6-quart saucepan or Dutch oven over

medium-low heat until a drop of water sizzles on contact. Add 3 tablespoons of the bacon fat or oil and onions. Cook, stirring, until onions are lightly browned, about 10 minutes. Add red pepper pieces and sauté 5 minutes. Stir in 3 cloves of minced garlic and cook for 1 minute. Remove with a slotted spoon to a bowl.

4. Add another 1 tablespoon of fat to the Dutch oven. Add beef cubes and any accumulated juices to the pot. Cook and stir for about 5 minutes.

5. Sprinkle 1/4 cup sweet Hungarian paprika and 1 1/2 teaspoons sweet or hot smoked paprika and 1/4

teaspoon cayenne over beef. Add onion mixture, 2 1/2 cups broth, 1/2 cup beer, 2 tablespoons tomato paste and 1 teaspoon salt. Heat to a simmer. Reduce heat to very low. Cover pan tightly and simmer over very low heat until beef is fork-tender, 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Refrigerate covered up to 3 days.

6. Reheat mixture if necessary. Add 8 ounces frozen or two drained 15-ounce cans black-eyed peas. Simmer uncovered, stirring often to reduce pan juices slightly, about 30 minutes. Taste and adjust seasonings.

7. Sprinkle with parsley. Serve with noodles.

Paprika and red pepper pasta casserole

Prep time: 25 minutes

Cook time: 1 1/4 hours

Makes: 8 servings

3 tablespoons vegetable oil

1 medium (8 ounces) onion, chopped

1 small bulb fresh fennel (8 ounces), thinly sliced, then chopped

2 red bell peppers (total 12 ounces), cored, seeded, chopped

3 cloves garlic, finely chopped

1/4 cup (1 ounce) sweet Hungarian paprika

1 1/2 teaspoons sweet or hot smoked paprika

1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper, optional

1 can (14-15 ounces) crushed tomatoes

1 can (14-15 ounces) fire-roasted diced tomatoes

1/2 cup pilsner-style beer

1/4 ounce dried mushrooms, such as sliced porcini, about 1/4 cup loosely packed

2 cups water

Salt

1 box (16 ounces) rigatoni pasta

1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs

2 cups (8 ounces) shredded mozzarella

1. Heat a large saucepan over medium heat until hot. Add 3 tablespoons oil, 1 medium chopped onion and 1 small bulb of sliced



fennel. Sauté until onion is tender, about 10 minutes.

2. Stir in 2 chopped bell peppers and sauté 5 minutes. Stir in 3 cloves of finely chopped garlic and cook for 1 minute.

3. Stir in 1/4 cup sweet Hungarian paprika and 1 1/2 teaspoons sweet or hot smoked paprika, 1/4 teaspoon cayenne, then tomatoes with their juices, 1/2 cup beer, 1/4 ounce dried mushrooms, 2 cups water

and 1 teaspoon salt. Simmer uncovered, stirring often, 20-30 minutes. Season to taste with salt. Sauce can be made up to 2 days in advance and refrigerated. Use warm.

4. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Oil a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. Heat a large kettle of salted water to a boil. Cook 16 ounces rigatoni until al dente, about 10 minutes. Drain pasta.

5. Put warm pasta into the prepared dish. Top with the warm sauce and half of the 2 tablespoons parsley. Stir to distribute sauce evenly. Bake until piping hot, about 30 minutes. Meanwhile, mix 1/2 cup breadcrumbs and 2 more tablespoons parsley. Sprinkle crumb mixture and 2 cups cheese over the pasta and bake until golden, about 10 minutes.



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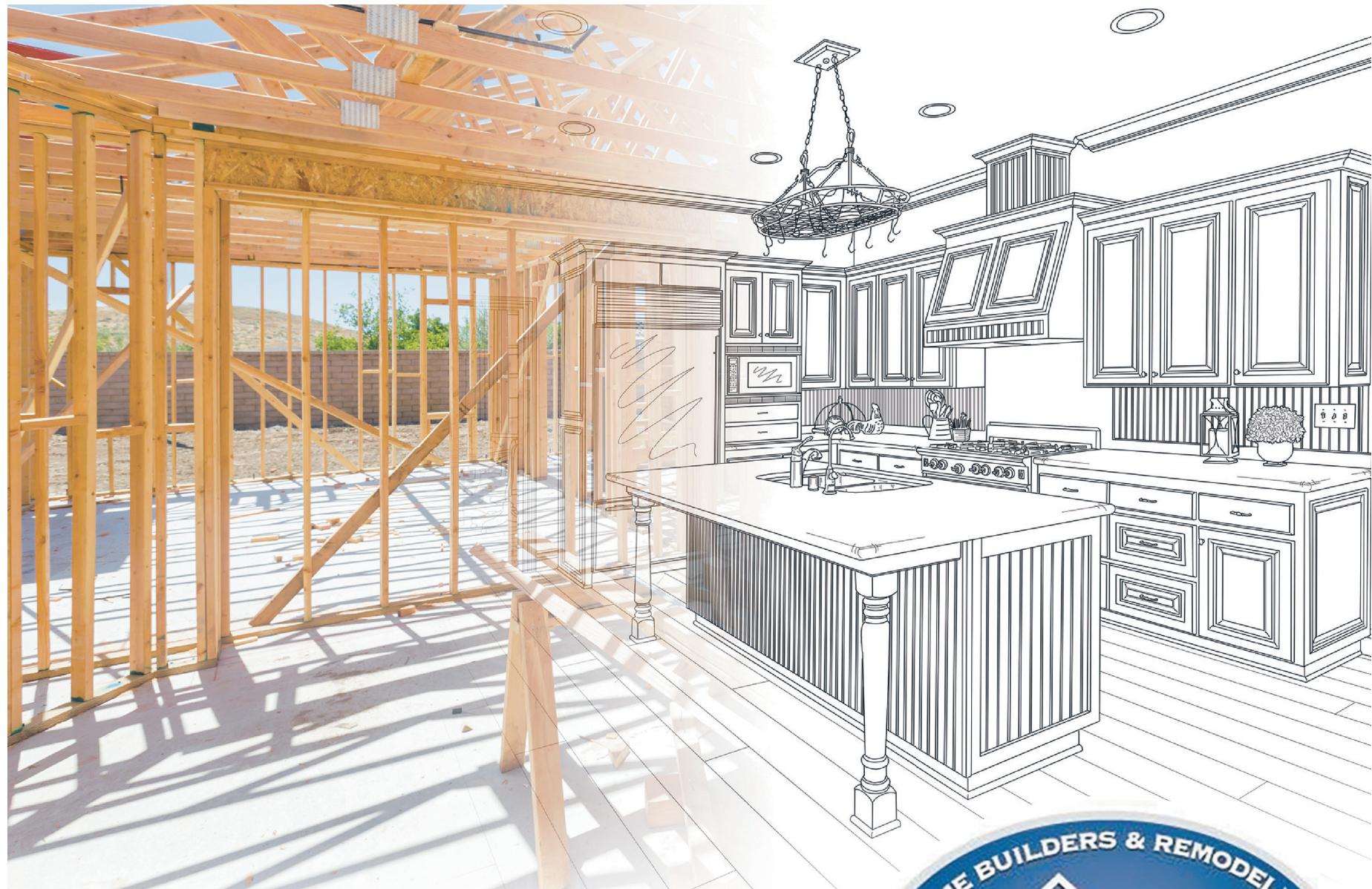
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Homeowner Resource Guide and Membership Directory



***Building Homes,
Enriching Communities and
Changing Lives.***



Welcome

I would like to welcome you to the Fall 2021 edition of the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Central Connecticut's Membership Directory and Homeowner Resource Guide. We hope you enjoy this special publication with resources for our members and homeowners. I hope you will keep this publication and reference it when you are looking for the resource to get the job done right – whether you are on the job site, or around your home or yard.

I hope you will take advantage of the incredible resources in this Directory. Within these pages lie the contractors, suppliers, builders and remodelers that you want to use – this is who we in the building industry use! For the latest list of members as well as industry and homeowner information, please visit our website on a regular basis at hbracentralct.com.

Started by a group of forward-thinking pioneers in 1944, the HBRA has steadily grown in membership and influence during our more than 77 years. The HBRA plays a vital role in the industry while not only providing an immense amount of knowledge to our members, but also allows friendships and business relationships to be developed within the industry.

The Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Central Connecticut – Building Homes, Enriching Communities, Changing Lives.

Thank you for using our membership directory and homeowner resource guide.

**Liz Koiva,
Nordic Builders of Tolland
President
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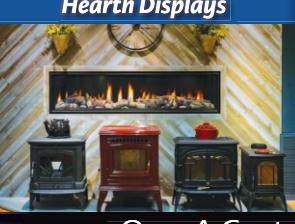
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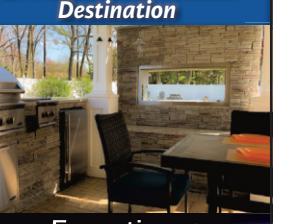
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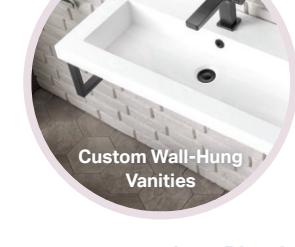


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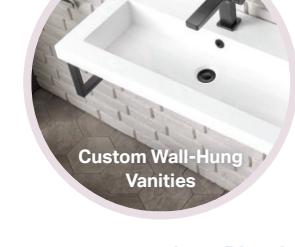
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